

OBERLIN

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 1997

Special Pull-Out Section
**Broad Directions
for Oberlin's Future**

A. R. Sherman
1936

WE'VE MADE GIVING TO OBERLIN A LOT MORE LIKE GOING TO OBERLIN.

Oberlin College has always been about choice and freedom. You choose what you want to get involved in. You decide how you want to make a difference. Now, we're bringing that same tradition of individualism to your financial support of Oberlin.

Beginning this year, you can decide where your gifts go. Scholarship support. Teaching and learning. Student life. Unrestricted support. Now you can choose where your gift will do the most good.

Teaching and Learning—Your gift will support the close working relationships between students and professors on which Oberlin prides itself.

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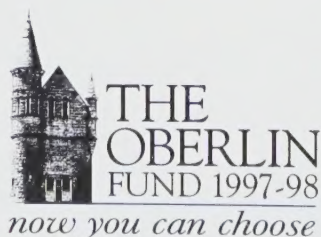
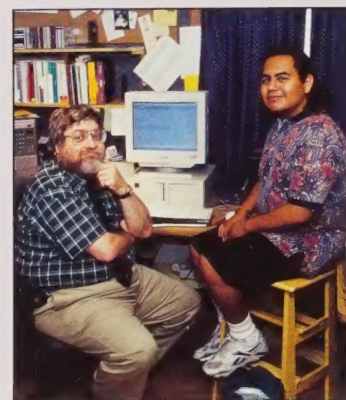
Teaching and Learning

"The way liberal arts colleges like Oberlin can distinguish themselves from large universities is how we can mentor our kids," says Ron Kahn, Oberlin professor of politics.

Junior Abel C. Zamora agrees. Working with Kahn last summer offered him the "opportunity to gain meaningful skills, rather than just going home and trying to find a job."

Abel spent his summer buried in law books, researching United States Supreme Court decisions involving sexual orientation, research Ron needed for his study of how the law addresses the rights of subordinated groups. Their work wound up at the University of Strathclyde in Scotland last July, when Ron presented a paper based on their collaboration to the Joint International Conference of the Law and Society Association.

Opportunities for students to work one on one with professors are a unique part of an Oberlin College education that not only help the students economically, says Kahn, but that help them "decide what they want to do."



For further information, call or write:

The Oberlin Fund, Bosworth Hall, 50 West Lorain Street, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio 44074
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All gifts to The Oberlin Fund are available to be expended in the year in which they are received. Gifts and pledge payments must be received by June 30, 1998, in order to receive gift club recognition for fiscal year 1997-98.

CHOOSE OBERLIN - AGAIN.



Althea Sherman, Class of 1873, combined her loves—art and nature—in the works that adorn our front and back covers. Front: Iowa's state flower and state bird: a goldfinch perched amidst wild roses, watercolor. Back: Catbirds on a branch, drawing. Photographs by Chuck Greiner courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

DEPARTMENTS

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Someone loves the OAM, but our editor says farewell anyway; responses to the Sarajevo project; former students reminisce about professors McGill and Fountain.

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OBERLIN

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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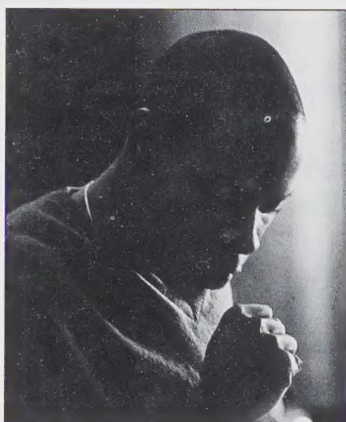
10 *Iceland—Holy Ground Still*

A seemingly barren corner of the world, where sheep dot the landscape and shape the life of the islanders, enchants a well-traveled writer.

BY BETTE MCDEVITT '54

14 *Avery Brooks—The Man Behind the Mask*

OBERLIN COLLEGE FILE PHOTOGRAPH



Known to thousands of TV viewers as Commander Benjamin Sisko, of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, Avery Brooks '70 is known to others as the remarkably gifted actor who portrays Paul Robeson in his acclaimed one-man show. In a dressing-room interview, Brooks explains why he will keep telling Robeson's story in major cities throughout the United States "as long as he has breath."

BY BETTY GABRIELLI

16 *The Month of a Lifetime—Tales from Oberlin in Italy*

Conservatory professor Duane Mahy has been leading Oberlin students to Italy every summer for the past 10 years. Most are voice students from the conservatory, but all are welcome to



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DUANE MAHY

join the month-long immersion in things Italian.

BY BETTY GABRIELLI

OBERLIN COLLEGE ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPH



18 *Althea Sherman Resurrected*

The University of Iowa just republished a 40-year-old book by a woman who spent the last five decades of her life sequestered in the middle of nowhere, caring for her ailing parents and curmudgeonly older sister. Why does Althea Sherman merit such a resurrection?

BY CONNIE FLEISCHER MUTEL '69

Alumni Association Tours

See the world with Oberlin experts as your guides

CHINA: THE SILK ROAD • SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 16, 1997

Escorted by Shansi Association Director Carl Jacobson

We'll spend three days in Beijing before exploring the Silk Road. Includes visits to Urumqi, Kashgar, Turpan, Dunhuang and the Mogao Caves, Shanghai, and Xian, where the famous terra-cotta warriors were unearthed. Optional three-day Hong Kong tour.

Brochure available.

AMONG THE GREAT WHALES: BAJA CALIFORNIA AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ JANUARY 16-24, 1998

Escorted by Associate Professor of Biology Roger Laushman

We'll visit the Sea of Cortez—home of the great whales, exceptional marine and bird life, and desert landscapes. Join us in exploring the islands and banks of this region aboard the 70-passenger *MV Sea Bird*. Experts in local bird and sea life will be on board as we explore by Zodiac small craft the many uninhabited islands, such as Isla Los Islotes and Espiritu Santo, with their fascinating cacti and bird life (also good for snorkeling and beach barbecues); the Gorda Banks, a gathering place for whales and dolphins; the popular resort town of Cabo San Lucas; Bahia Magdalena, the main breeding and calving area for the California gray whale; and San Carlos/La Paz. Brochure available.

JORDAN AND SYRIA • MARCH 13-28, 1998

Escorted by Professor of Religion Grover Zinn

The amazing hidden city of Petra, crusader castles, ruins of ancient cities rising out of the sand, lively souks, and the great capitals of Amman and Damascus: all await us on this 16-day journey. Be among the first Americans to visit these historically rich countries—a pivotal point between east and west and cradle of ancient civilizations.

Coescort Tarek Swelim is a Harvard-educated expert in Islamic art and architecture.

Brochure available in late summer.

IRELAND • JUNE 20-JULY 4, 1998

Escorted by Donald R. Longman Professor of English David Young

Our visit to the Emerald Isle will emphasize its great literary geniuses. Highlights include Yeats' Thor Baylee; a ferry trip to the largest of the Aran islands, the Island of Inishmore;

Sligo at "Yeats country." We'll see the Hill of Tara and Newgrange on our way to Dublin, where we'll focus on James Joyce while taking time enjoy a performance at the Abbey Theater and tour Trinity College, home of the Book of Kells. Then off to Waterford, Cork, and Killarney, our base for exploring the Dingle Peninsula. Adare, Limerick, and the spectacular Cliffs of Moher complete our itinerary. Brochure available.

Other upcoming tours

December '98/January '99 • India

With escorts Joe and Joann Finley Elder, both '51

March 1999 • Old South Spring Pilgrimage

On board the *Mississippi Queen* with Professor of History Geoffrey Blodgett '53

July/August 1999 • Kenya/Tanzania Safari

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Letters



High Praise



I feel that both the editorial and graphic design of the *OAM* have, lately, been better than ever. The photography, page graphics, and editorial approach combine for an effect that is stunningly dignified and incisive.

One frequently hears in the not-for-profit publishing world that good public relations and thoughtful, significant content are a contradiction difficult to avoid. The *OAM* team breaks through this difficulty simply by breaking through it, like William Carlos Williams' saxifrage plant breaking through a rock. In doing so, they transcend faddishness and stuffiness nicely. Frequently, they attain an editorial standard far beyond the best one normally finds in an alumni magazine.

WILLIAM H. FABER '68

Iowa City, Iowa

Editor's reply: Bill's letter took our collective breath away—check out the masthead on the previous page for a complete list of all the individuals who labor, and learn, on the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*.

Of all of us, though, I think I cherish his applause the most. I consider it a going-away present, coming as it does in time for publication in the last issue I will edit. I'm not going far—actually, I'm not going anywhere. I'm still with the College, still with the Office of Communications, but I'll be editing other publications we produce, including *Around the Square*. Nearly everything I know about editing and publications management I learned at the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, and, after seven years, I'm eager to branch out and work on other projects. I'll miss the contact with fellow alums that the magazine affords, so I'll keep my hand in the *OAM*, or at least reach in and give it a tickle every now and then.

Do I get a last request? I hope so, because I want to urge you to continue corresponding with the *OAM* staff. Letter writers need not praise the staff to get attention; we want you to tell us what you don't like about the magazine, too. Your views on content and approach have helped us improve the magazine (this issue's Commencement-Reunion supplement is a direct result of readers' request for more coverage of the weekend's events), and the magazine staff under a new editor's leader-

ship will continue to value your contributions and feedback long after I've gone.

The Sarajevo Project



I really enjoyed reading the article "Think One Person Can Change the World?" [Spring 1997 *OAM*]. Like many people, I have been shocked and saddened by the fighting in Bosnia and surrounding areas. I love music—and what it can do for people—and so I was moved by the amazing efforts of Marianne Libertore.

NICK ROYAL '59

Santa Cruz, California

*Truly, a cello
shattered by a bullet
is an unforgettable
symbol of what war
is and does.*

Marianne Libertore's project touched my heart ["Think One Person Can Change The World?," Spring 1997 *OAM*]. During the war in the former Yugoslavia I was nearer than most Oberlin alumni, living for the past 13 years in Geneva, Switzerland, where my husband works for the World Council of Churches and I for the Conference of European Churches. Both organizations have staff assigned to consult with and support religious leaders and interreligious and local groups in the new nations of the former Yugoslavia, and many refugees came from Bosnia to Switzerland. I especially remember one young woman who had not known for a year where her children were. A troupe of children came and gave circus performances and shared their poetry and crafts with anyone who would welcome them.

Our family has volunteered for some of the many deserving projects to help those whose lives have been destroyed by the war,

and as fellow music lovers, my husband Tom and I want to be a part of the Musical Peace Corps. Truly, a cello shattered by a bullet is an unforgettable symbol of what war is and does. And music does unite people, and helps them to restore the life of their city. Thank you, Marianne, for giving us the chance to join you in this. God bless you.

ISABEL LOVEJOY BEST '61

Geneva, Switzerland

If You Knew Nigel . . .



Readers of this issue's "Losses in the Oberlin Family" section will note the name of a relatively recent graduate, Nigel Williams '93. His suicide is a terrible loss to all who knew him. I was his best friend and soulmate, and I am open to communication from any friends of Nigel's who wish to know more about the circumstances. Though I have tried to communicate with many of the people who knew him, his friendships were far-ranging, and I know that I have not reached everyone. If you knew Nigel and would like to ask questions, or just talk, please feel free to contact me. E-mail: ross@cs.oberlin.edu. Post: 5720 N. 19th St., Arlington, VA 22205. Phone: (703)237-9407. I would truly appreciate the opportunity to speak with others who knew him.

HUGH ROSS '93

Arlington, Virginia

Thanks From the Franks



Along with all the surviving members of the Frank/Goldsmith families, I would like to join the many of our wartime generation in thanking you and Jim Sunshine '49 for your
(continued on page 47)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME. They should be on subjects of interest to readers of this magazine, with emphasis on exchange of views and discussion of ideas.

Please limit length, where possible, to 250 words. Letters may be edited for clarity or condensed. Include a daytime telephone number and mail to "Letters to the Editor" at the addresses listed in the masthead on page 2.

Brace Yourselves: College Rankings Season Approaches

Every August faculty, staff, and alumni hold their collective breath when the *US News and World Report* college rankings are published. And every August families with college-bound children snap up about 2.4 million copies of that one issue—a phenomenal news-stand-sales rate, the profit from which is nearly equivalent to three months of subscription revenue.

Like magazines that rate consumer products, this issue gathers data, throws them into the statistical mixer, and, voilà, complicated social and educational institutions are ordered from first to worst, allowing consumers to make a decision regarding a life-long investment in literally a couple of seconds. (“Son, you better fire off an application to Whattsamatta U. I don’t know where it is or if they have a writing major, but it sure ranks up there with the best of ’em!”)

But unlike editors of, say, *Road and Track*, who rank automobiles, these editors have not taken any of these institutions on a “test drive,” thereby allowing qualitative assessments to accompany the quantitative. (How does this place feel? What are the people like? What do its graduates do?) Instead, the editors of *US News* rely heavily on simple input measures (most from the institutions themselves) to assess the quality of an institution.

It’s bad enough that their methodology is often criticized by statisticians and probably subject to change every year (after all, how many magazines would they sell if the “top 25” always showed up in the same order?). But even worse, the reductionist nature of such measures of quality robs an institution of its distinctive nature, and encourages students and parents to rely on measures that have little bearing on helping them understand what institution is appropriate for them.

No college guide can give a complete description of the Oberlin experience—assigning a numerical score to any institution does not measure what is truly important, such as values, mission, student outcomes, and faculty-student relationships. Indeed, numerical rankings actually serve as an incentive to stop worrying about such noble pursuits and concentrate on developing schemes to affect rank. There is considerable evidence that the rankings have affected some institutions’ admissions policies and have encouraged generous rounding policies when it’s time to turn over SAT scores. Rather than encouraging colleges to focus on what really matters (are we

helping our students to develop intellectually, artistically and emotionally in ways consistent with our mission?), the process pressures them to think about changing policies and practices in order to positively affect their rank.

We cannot allow such things to happen.

Can we therefore ignore our rank? Unfortunately the answer is no. In a national survey of students at highly selective institutions, 23 percent of them said rankings were “Very Important” in deciding which school to attend. At Oberlin, that number is lower (18 percent) but still significant. And according to a recent study out of UCLA, the most academically able students tend to give more credence to such rankings.

What we can do is educate prospective families—and remind ourselves—about Oberlin’s special character. We can encourage all families to learn about Oberlin from a variety of sources, including personal contact as well as other, more qualitatively driven assessments, such as *The Fiske Guide to Colleges* and *Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges*. We can also continue to work with publishers to broaden their assessments of institutions.

We know that Oberlin is intellectually powerful, artistically vibrant, and wonderfully diverse. Those are qualities that can’t be simply statistically derived.

—Ross Peacock

Director of Institutional Research

Domination, Annihilation, Conference Champions

So began the Oberlin Review’s May 9 article about the 1997 North Coast Athletic Conference’s champs—the women’s lacrosse team. More details of the Yeowomen’s successful season can be found in the July issue of *Around the Square*, where you can also find news of the women’s tennis team, which finished second in the NCAC championships.

The men’s and women’s Ultimate Frisbee teams—the Flying Horsecows and Praying Manti—made it to the national championships, held May 30–June 1 in California. Official word on the results was unavailable at press time, but reports posted on Ultimate web sites indicate both teams were out of the running by day two.



Four Seniors Bring Special Honor to Oberlin

Any college that can produce two Fulbright Scholars and two Watson Fellows in the same year can take justifiable pride in its enrollment and development of outstanding students. At least one Oberlin student has won a Watson Fellowship each year for the last 29 years, and 1997 was no exception. Double-degree student Jared Johnson is off to England to study choral music, ranging from amateur to professional, in English society. He says the fellowship provides "a wonderful opportu-

nity—the time to do something you really want to do and could not do any other way."

Amy Evans, a double major in creative writing and French, will travel to Europe to conduct her Watson project, *Communities of Resistance: The Development of Consciousness among Black Writers in France and Germany*. She will talk with Afro-Germans and African-American expatriates in France about how writing serves them "in their everyday lives."

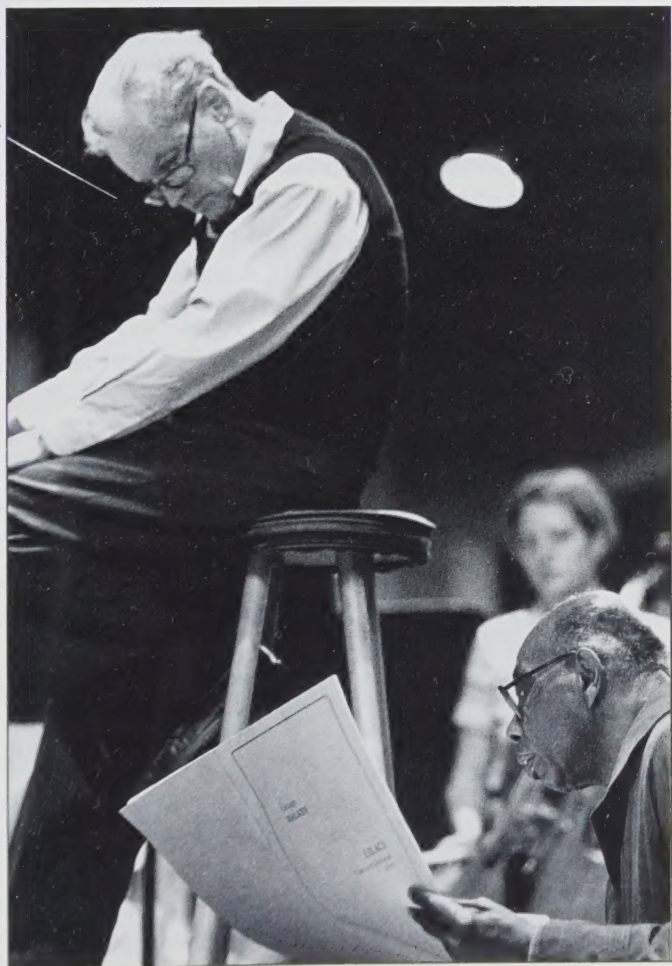
Both Fulbright Scholars—Amy Durica, a double-degree student, and Jennifer Novak, a piano major—will spend next year in Germany. Amy will teach English and American studies in Potsdam's Voltaire Gesantschule while studying at the Berlin Musik Hochschule. She will also take private voice lessons.

Jennifer will study German piano repertoire at the Würzburg Musik Hochschule and participate in the March 1998 International Bach Piano Competition in Saarbrücken.

Honoring Oberlin's Own Pulitzer Prize Winner

To honor Pulitzer Prize winning composer George Walker '41, Conservatory of Music faculty presented him with an April 30 concert of his solo and chamber works. Faculty members performing during the tribute concert included organist David Boe, baritone Gerald Crawford, pianists James Howsmon and Jennifer Rhinehart, and violinist Gregory Fulkerson '70, as well as conservatory students under the direction of Gene Young '60.

The following day the composer observed the Oberlin Orchestra rehearsing for its May 2 performance of his Pulitzer-winning piece, *Lilacs*. George recently retired as chair of Rutgers' music department, having taught there for 27 years, but he continues to compose. (Left) Walker goes over a fine point in his score with Visiting Professor of Orchestral Conducting Louis Lane. (Right) Walker (left) and Professor of Afro-American Music and Jazz Studies Wendell Logan.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN SEYFRIED

Challenger Astronaut's Dreams Live On

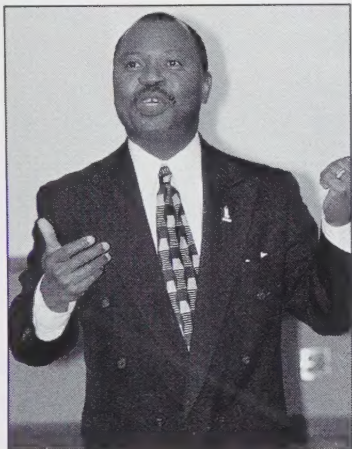
Every year the Ronald E. McNair Foundation's Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program enables 10 Oberlin juniors to spend the summer working one-on-one with a faculty mentor. The foundation's founder and president, Carl McNair, spoke with 70 Oberlinians—many of them McNair recipients—at the College's 5th Annual Senior Awards Banquet in April.

McNair created the foundation in memory of his brother, Ronald E. McNair, who died in the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion. Ronald McNair didn't hear the word

doctorate very often while he was growing up, but he was determined to earn one, maintaining his resolve through frustrating times in an academic environment far removed from his rural upbringing. He persevered, becoming the first in his family to earn a bachelor's degree, then a PhD, and going on to fulfill many a young boy's dream of becoming

an astronaut. The McNair Foundation helps make Ronald's dream a reality for low-income and first-generation students by developing and implementing educational programs that motivate, encourage, and support their academic aspirations.

McNair related some of the challenges Ronald faced while pursuing his goal—poverty, cultural obstacles, and racism among them. He urged Oberlin students to imitate his brother by setting goals and refusing to lose sight of them.



Carl McNair



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TANVA ROSEN '97

McNair recipients with the foundation's president. Left to right: Office of Undergraduate Research coordinator Che Gonzalez '96, Sarresa Richardson '99, Kathryn Roberts '99, Prentiss Slaughter '98, Samantha Sansevere '98, McNair, Monica Bielski '97, Aisha Ahmed '98, Susan Dennehy '99, and Jeff Cabusao '97.

This Magazine is Available on Cassette

The *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* is available on cassette through the Cleveland Sight Center. Alumni interested in receiving a cassette-recorded version of the magazine may call or write to:

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URL: www.oberlin.edu/~alumassc

Oberlin's Shining Star

Nancy S. Dye "is a shining example of a leader who takes an active role in effecting positive change and creating an atmosphere of equality for those she serves," read the statement nominating Oberlin's president for the YWCA's 1997 Greater Cleveland Women of Achievement Award.

President Dye was one of eight women to receive the award, which honors those

who demonstrate leadership, excellence, and commitment in their careers and in their communities.

Awards are presented to women who exemplify the Y's mission—"the empowerment of women and the elimination of racism."

Dye (left) accepted her award from YWCA executive director Barbara Danforth at the May 6 ceremony held in Cleveland.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN MORAN



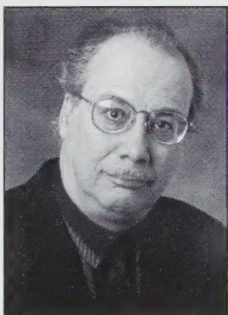
Szold, Maneker and Stang Join Board of Trustees, Gittler Reelected

Myron R. Szold '56, Roberta Scheff Maneker '57, and Harry R. Stang '59 have joined the Oberlin College Board of Trustees. Szold and Maneker's terms run through January 1, 2000, Stang through January 1, 2003. In addition, trustee Amy J. Gittler '72 has been reelected to a six-year term.

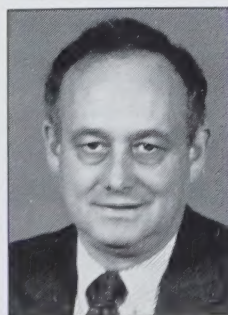
Myron Szold is senior advisor to Talon Asset Management, and was, through 1994, a member of the board and CEO of Harris Associates, L.P. He is a trustee of Beloit College and a member of the Governing Board of The Orchestral Association. He was a

member of his class's 35th Reunion Gift Committee and has been a nontrustee member of the board's Investment Committee since 1994. Szold is married to sculptor Sara Fridman Szold; they live in Chicago and have four children. Szold is filling the unexpired term of retiree Herbert W. Kaatz '58.

A partner of the international law firm Bryan Cave LLP, Harry R. Stang is member of the firm's Executive Committee and national leader of its Labor and Employment Client Service Group. He has served the American Bar Association and the Labor Lawyers' Advisory Committee in numerous capacities, and he has lectured nationally and published several articles on labor-management matters. A strong supporter of the Los Angeles Music Center, Mr. Stang is also a member of the



Szold



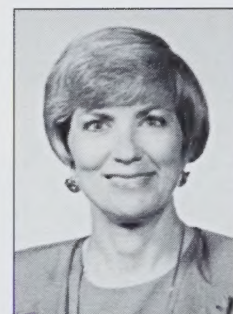
Stang

College's John Frederick Oberlin Society. He and his wife, artist Marta Chaffee Stang, live in Pacific Palisades. They have two daughters, Aandrea '90 and Alana.

A partner with the law firm Brown & Bain, Amy Gittler specializes in employment law. She joined the board in 1991, and has chaired its Legal Affairs and Enrollment committees. Gittler served as vice chair of board in 1993, and has been a member of the Executive Committee since then. She lives in Arizona with her husband, Michael Sillyman, and their two children.

Maneker, currently a self-employed writer, has worked at a variety of writing, management, and editing jobs, including seven years as senior vice-president of marketing and corporate communications at Christie's. She is a board member of

the Larchmont, New York, PTA and of the Mamaroneck, New York, Center for Continuing Education, and is also involved in Women in Communications and the Appraisers Association of America. Maneker's involvement with Oberlin is extensive and long-standing; she has been a member of her class's 40th Reunion Gift Committee, Alumni Association president, president of the Oberlin Club of New York, chair of the Alumni Trustee Search Committee, a member of the Presidential Search Committee, and a member of the Alumni Magazine Committee. She is married to retired attorney Morton M. Maneker, has two children, and lives in New York City. She is filling the unexpired term created by the retirement of Victor J. Stone '42.



Gittler



Maneker

Towering Chapeau Is Tops at Westervelt Celebration

Diane Vreuls, (right) emeritus professor of creative writing, won first prize for her replica of the gleaming metal steeple recently-erected atop the New Union Center for the Arts (formerly Westervelt Hall). The new tower duplicates the original spire long since dismantled. The Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization, the building's tenants, and the Oberlin Chamber of Commerce hosted the celebration.

In an all-hands-on-deck community celebration May 17, hundreds of parade participants turned out. Among the throng were the many inspired crazy-hat marchers, a kazoo band, a group of expert hand-bell ringers, and a seemingly endless stream of men and women

dressed in authentic costumes of the 1870s, marking the original 1874 dedication of the school building. Jane and Eric Nord, representing the Nord Family Foundation that financed the renovation of the building, were chauffeured along the route in an antique, open-air touring car.

The new four-foot bell with its decorative finial of more than five feet rests on the roof at the base of the tower, and can be reached from within the building by a series of steep stairways and ladders through the attic—forty-four steps above the third floor. Visible day or night from almost every spot in the community, the bell is electronically operated and will toll at noon and at 6 pm each day.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHLEEN KOSHA
COURTESY OF THE OBERLIN NEWS-TRIBUNE



A r o u n d

**TAPPAN
SQUARE**

Thank You, Professor Clifford Cook

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADINA STEIMAN '98

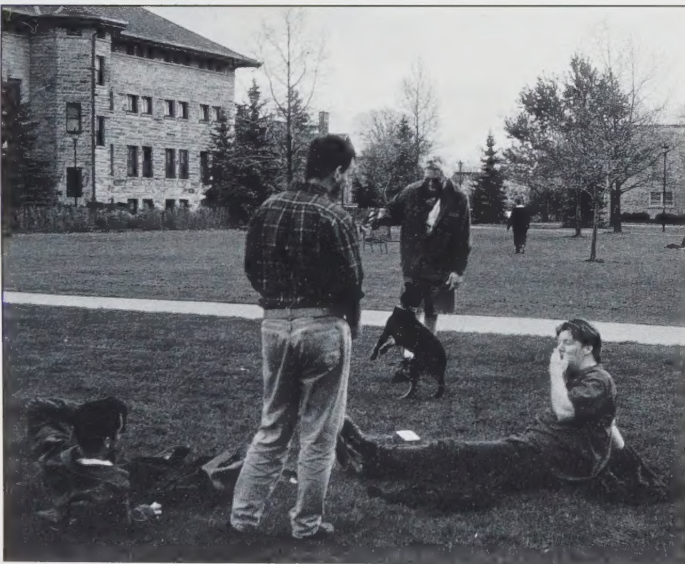


If not for conservatory professor Clifford Cook, these budding virtuosos might never have picked up violins. Cook, who died last February, was instrumental in bringing the Suzuki method to the United States. Suzuki students from Lorain County paid tribute to him with a memorial performance preceding the Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra's May 4 concert.

Cook became intrigued by the Suzuki method in 1958, when he saw a film of Shinichi Suzuki's Talent Education Institute students in concert. Cook began using the method, and in 1964 he brought Shinichi Suzuki to Oberlin to instruct other music teachers in the method's use.

Professor Cook's Memorial Minute appears in this issue's "Losses in the Oberlin Family" section.

My Life As A Dog



Oberlin
+ *Spring*
+ *Wilder Bowl*
= *doggie heaven*



Senior Tonya Rosen captured this photogenic canine's playful and contented moods.



Your Alumni Association



OFFICE OF THE OBERLIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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ICE HOLY GROUND

BY BETTE MCDEVITT '54

AND STILL



"In my childhood dreams, Iceland was holy ground. When, at the age of twenty-nine, I saw it for the first time, the reality verified my dream. At fifty-seven, it was holy ground still, with the most magical light of anywhere on earth."

— W. H. Auden

It's true about the light.

I was driving around Iceland with a photographer who stopped the car every 15 minutes, whispering "Look at this

light!" as he jumped out to shoot yet another picture. Our destination was a photographer's dream—an annual sheep roundup in southwestern Iceland. The air was crisp, like our own autumn, but there were no brilliant trees. Vikings cut down what few there were, and the rocky ground cannot support new growth.

Icelanders like it that way. "When I travel in other countries, I can't see the landscape. Too many trees," says Steffie, a new Icelandic friend. You can see everything here, the ever-changing cloud formations, the pure blue Arctic sky, the mountains dotted with sheep.

The sheep—I was obsessed with the yarn from these sheep. Two years ago, when I was in Iceland for the first time, I impulsively bought *Lopi*, as Icelandic wool is called, to knit a sweater as I traveled by bus around the country. The woman who sold me the coils of yarn looked troubled, but her English lacked the words she needed. The yarn was different; it came apart in my hands. I asked everyone about *Lopi*, and learned that it was unspun wool.

"Take three strands of yarn," a woman in a fishing village told me, "and wind them together three times. Then make the ball dance on the floor." As soon as I learned to do this, I immediately got enough tension, and wound the wool as I circled Iceland, with balls of yarn careening down the aisle of the bus. Passengers chuckled and rolled them back to me.

Only a knitter or spinner could understand why coils of *Lopi* were stuffed in all the crannies of my luggage. I also mailed home cartons of it at enormous cost, and now everyone in my family has at least one *Lopi* sweater. I also keep a basketful of *Lopi* in the corner of my workroom; I just like the way it looks—all shades of the sheep.

I returned to Iceland last September to learn the whole story of *Lopi*, beginning with the national roundup. On this memorable day,



The fjalldingur, or Mountain King, is identified by the stick he carries. He is chosen by his peers and leads the group of sheep farmers and volunteers into the mountains for a three-day roundup, where they sleep in a mountain hut at night. Because a roundup member is automatically lost overnight in the fog, their instructions, should they become separated from the group, are to stay where they are, with their horses, until the Mountain King's search party locates them the next morning. He even the author learned during the roundup she participated in.

15,000 sheep were making their way down the mountains through crevices, gullies, and streams, herded by men wearing *Lopi* wool sweaters and orange raingear. Their small Icelandic horses with manes like Tina Turner's were of a breed that originally came to Iceland with the Vikings in the year 800. Raised in splendid isolation, the strain has only improved over the centuries. The horses have a unique fifth gait, *toelting*, which gives a smooth ride. "You feel like a Viking, riding up into the mountains," a horseman confided with a shy smile. No cross breeding is allowed, and if an Icelandic horse leaves the country, it can never return.

The sight took my breath away. Some of the riders had three horses reined in beside them, so that each horse could have an opportunity to rest. More riders, both men and women, waited to herd the sheep down the trail to the corral. The sheep didn't want to cross a rapidly running river and made frenzied figure eights on the mountainside. Again I held my breath in wonder as they were finally ambushed, with one farmer carrying the last headstrong animal across the river over his shoulder like a small child.

When the sheep were gathered, we all headed for the large fenced area where they would be penned overnight. The riders were relaxed, quaffing down Icelandic vodka or a strong brandy known as Black Death. Our roundup guide, Kristjan, said that farmers make Black Death from sugar and alcohol, fermenting it for just six days before drinking it. Reporters and guests covering the event suddenly felt very fragile as they finally understood what the name of the drink truly meant.

The next morning the farmers and their families came to sort





*A windblown mother props
her two bundled little ones on a patient horse.*

out their sheep at the round stone corral named *Priveratt*, or in English, the sheepfold. One hundred sheep at a time were moved from the fenced area into the corral which was divided into pie-shaped, numbered sections. Each sheep, identified by a brand on its ear, was led to the corresponding section of the corral. When the last of the sheep

were sorted, each farmer loaded his own herd onto a truck and headed for the farm. This roundup has gone on, unchanged, for hundreds of years.



There can be problems for the sheep, even on the lowlands, in the severe winters. Kristjan told me of a time when 100 sheep were buried in a snowdrift. "Everyone came to help with aluminum poles and dogs. We used poles to find the sheep, but it was really the dogs who did the best work. We found 70 of them. One was not found for three weeks, but he was still alive."

The Icelandic sheep are well dressed for winter with a coarse outer layer coat, the tog, and a soft, downy undercoat, the pel, which provides insulation. This is why the Loppi is so light-weight, waterproof, and warm.

"We live by sheep," Peter Gierson, owner of a local hotel, told me. "A sheep stealer is close to a murderer in Iceland." Icelandic people know the value of their herds. Sheep provide food, clothing, and a living for many farmers here, and life on this island would be impossible without them.

I'm possessed by a malady known as Iceland fever. The island is a special-effects movie with an unlimited budget. Volcanoes spew out of glaciers. Steam hisses, and geysers spurt out of the ground. Rain and wind come in every direction, except up. Continental plates bump and grind along the Atlantic Ridge through the center of the country causing fissures and volcanic eruptions. But the landscape is only the whipped cream; the people take the cake. Here are 250,000 inhabitants living in the most hostile environment possible, but they enjoy universal education with a 98 percent literacy rate; the oldest parliamentary government; women who run the country; no poverty and no conspicuous wealth; no pollution; and geothermal heating for all. The residents have a dry wit, love ballroom dancing, are good with computers, and call everyone by their first names, including their president. In fact, they are listed by their first names in the phone directory—a great leveler.

I'd like to go back to Iceland in the winter, when the moonlight gleams on the snow and the roads are blown shut. I would sit snugly in the tea room of the elegant Hotel Borg in Reykjavik, eating Icelandic pastries, and staring out the window.

I want to visit in midsummer when the sun is a red ball of fire low in the sky.

I want to lie on my back in a swimming pool and gaze at the sky.

There can never be enough of Iceland for me. □

BETTE MCDEVITT is a freelance travel writer who lives in New Castle, Pennsylvania. Photographs by Herb Swanson.

*Icelanders
still speak
the language
of the Vikings,*

*ancient Norse. When
something new comes
along, they create an
Icelandic word for it; no TV
or CD there. A pager, for
instance, is known
as "the disturber
of the peace."*

Avery Brooks

the man behind the mask

by betty gabrielli

he's not a space commander, but he plays one on tv. hence, avery brooks—aka commander benjamin sisko of star trek, has a face that's instantly recognizable to thousands, many of whom might not know the depth of his talent or the breadth of his accomplishments—or the integrity of his vision.

an exhausted looking Avery Brooks '70, '95 honorary, enters the dressing room under Finney Chapel's stage at 10 AM. He has just arrived in Oberlin, having flown all night from the West Coast, but in a few hours he will give a free public performance of his acclaimed one-man show, *Paul Robeson*. And just a few hours after that he will fly back to Los Angeles, where he will finish taping the season's final episodes of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and an as-yet untitled film.

As he sinks into a high-backed chair for our interview, though, his celebrity status is in abeyance. The bright lights for the beta-cam accent his faded-blue fringed poncho, a contrast to his formal trousers, and there sits an ordinary, personable, weary man.

"I dressed in this very room," he says wonderingly, reminiscing about his days in the Oberlin College Choir. Brooks came to Oberlin a Romance-languages major with no special interest in performance. Eventually, though, he found himself signing up for courses in African-American studies and

government, not to mention theater, becoming active in Psuekay, a black-students' theater group begun on campus in the '60s.

Professor Calvin Hernton, chair of Oberlin's African-American studies department and Brooks' long-time friend, recalls Brooks' days



with Psuekay. "He was a great actor, quite authentic," says Hernton. "He has an overwhelmingly convincing gift of enlivening the person he is portraying. He becomes the character—in fact, he becomes larger than the character."

Brooks' talent attracted national attention when he landed the role of Hawk, a street-wise crime fighter, on the television series *Spencer for Hire*. However, the experience wasn't as glorious as star-struck fans might think. "They told me just to say my lines and hit my mark," says Brooks, recalling confrontations with the show's white producers over their stereotyped portrayal of blacks. But Brooks, who has always felt strongly about his responsibility as an artist, did more than say his lines. He infused the character with the reality of black culture, improvising more "real and representative" dialog.

Brooks' view of Hawk as a contemporary black urban hero must have been on the mark; the character spun off its own series, *A Man Called Hawk*, in which he starred. And he has continued forging an impressive career, despite refusing to back down when he encounters prejudice or ignorance—unfortunately his experiences as Hawk aren't his only such memories. "I refuse to betray the dignity of my people," he says.

Brooks dislikes being labeled an actor. The term is superficial because "its reality is specific to time and space," he says, lasting only as long as a person performs a role. "You are mother, father, husband, lover, brother. You are all those things." Focusing on

Brooks' professional life, the terms director and musician must be added. His theater credits include *The Offering*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Othello*, and *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?* His formidable singing voice—he is an operatic bass—garnered him the title role in the opera *The Life and Times of Malcolm X*, and continues to serve him well in his portrayal of the most formidable of bassos—Paul Robeson.

James Earl Jones first presented *Paul Robeson* on Broadway in 1978. Since reviving it in 1988, Brooks has given more than 300 performances in cities throughout the United States, and he intends to continue indefinitely. "I will keep telling this story as long as I have breath," he says, paraphrasing Frederick Douglass: there are not going to be any new truths until the old truths have been dusted off and put in the light of day.

Robeson was "a man who had a great heart, great courage, enormous intellect, and deep caring for humankind," he says. Explaining why he revived the show, Brooks recalls a piece he did with Hernton in the '60s, *The Place*, that explored what they called "socio-historical hypnosis," a condition in which people lose connection with the past. "People do not connect with what happened last week, let alone what happened 20 years ago." Performing Robeson is not an attempt to restore Robeson's memory; it is an invocation of that memory aimed at provoking people "to go and find out exactly who he was."

Brooks does not suffer from socio-historical hypnosis. Conversations with him exude the

sense of continuity that infuses his outlook. When asked about people who influenced him, he names many who, he says, saw the light in him and nurtured it—among them his parents; his wife, Vicki Bowen Brooks '72; and Oberlin professors Hernton and Robert Fountain. Regardless of how many years he may have been separated from some of those individuals, he speaks of them and their impact as continuing influences. "Their total effect I will never know," he says, "because it is not over. . . . You know what I mean? It's not over." □

BETTY GABRIELLI is senior staff writer in the Oberlin College Office of Communications. Photographs by John Seyfried.

presence, persistence and success

Avery Brooks' free and open-to-the-public performance of *Paul Robeson* in Finney Chapel was one of the highlights of this year's African-American Alumni Reunion. Entitled "Presence, Persistence, and Success," the reunion was

(continued on page 35)



THE MONTH OF A *lifetime*

BY BETTY GABRIELLI

Every summer for the past 10 years Conservatory professor Daune Mahy has been leading Oberlin students to Italy. All of them find the trip unforgettable, and, for most, the experience has proved invaluable.



Above: Surrounded by the mountains and gentle foothills of central Italy, Urbania was, from the 15th to the 18th centuries, the courtly residence of the Dukes of Urbino.

“They were just like fans waiting to get into a rock concert or a baseball stadium, but this was opera!” recalls junior voice major Erica Salinas of La Scala’s lottery, in which hundreds of people write their names on slips of paper, then mill about the opera house’s plaza for hours, hoping their slip will be drawn. “Some were anxious, almost hysterical. Some cried when their names weren’t called. The ones who did get tickets, they screamed and laughed and danced.”

Salinas was in Milan last summer with others enrolled in the Oberlin-in-Italy program, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this summer. The program was the brainchild of Oberlin voice professors Daune Mahy and Gerald Crawford, who spent several months studying in Urbania at the Centro Studi Italiani (CSI), a language school affiliated with the Societa Dante Alighieri.

Most intensive language-study programs do not offer vocal coaching, and the professors thought such a combination would be invaluable for young singers. And CSI’s proximity to Italy’s important singing schools and opera theaters, coupled with Urbania’s rich history and beautiful countryside, made it a perfect partner for academic collaboration with Oberlin. CSI director Carlo Pasotto agreed, and the new program was launched. Oberlin-in-Italy singers are coached by Mahy and Italian Maestro Carlo Morganti in the Italian lyrical style. Nineteen hours a week of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary classes are bolstered by daily contact with Urbania residents, who open their homes and hearts to visitors.

“It’s a total blitz,” remembers Jennifer Wamsley ’93, who went to Urbania in 1991 and is now the conservatory’s assistant director of opera theater. “As a singer, I really needed to work on my Italian. Living with a family there, I picked up more of the language in a month than I could have in a semester-long class.”

Vocalists and instrumentalists in the program have traditionally given a Gala Concert at the conclusion of the course. This summer, in celebration of the anniversary, Mahy expanded the performance

component, adding Puccini's one-act chamber opera *Suor Angelica* and two in-house concerts.

The program is geared in many ways toward Oberlin voice majors, but anyone interested in things Italian is welcome. The 1997 contingent numbered 33-15 Oberlin students from both the con and college, conservatory faculty members Marlene Ralis Rosen and Michael Rosen, a retired Chicagoan, and students from other colleges and universities. Among them was entering sophomore Morgan Pinney, a visual artist who was delighted to discover the program while going through the course catalogue. "I've always wanted to go to Europe and Italy and this looked like a wonderful opportunity." She planned to study Italian language and culture, as well as drawing and art history.

All participants can choose among courses in Italian literature, the history of Italian opera, and art history. And there is time for applied study in Urbania's art and handicraft traditions—among them Renaissance ceramics, Assisi needlepoint, Italian cooking, design, and book restoration.

Two evenings each week are set aside for film salons, art exhibitions, concerts, and talks with artists and writers. Students can stroll home afterwards, stopping at any one of the many open-air cafes for gelati and conversation. The Cafe al Teatro's linden-tree enclosed patio offers a more contemplative resting spot, while La Taverna, an underground pub that stays open late, attracts the group's night owls.

The ancient cities of Assisi, Sienna, Gubbio, and Ravenna are a short bus trip away, as is Pesaro, home of the Rossini Opera Festival. And they attend major concerts; last year's group saw *Das Rheingold* at Milan's La Scala, *Lucia de Lammermoor* in Florence, and *La Boheme* and *Elisir d'Amore* in Rome.

Such cultural immersion provides a strong foundation upon which to build a career. "As a stage director, to have seen the country gives me a sense of character, a sense of what Italians are like and the feeling of the places and buildings where the characters might have lived and moved," says Wamsley.

Several other conservatory and program grads have enjoyed recent career coups: Lynette Tapia '95 won the Metropolitan Opera's 1996 national competition, Amy Hansen Simmons '93 won the Met's 1995 district finals, and Janna Baty '90 won the Met's 1994 regional finals. And the confidence Erica Salinas gained from her experiences in last year's program may have contributed to her selection by the Ezio Pinza Council for American Singers of Opera as one of 12 young singers studying this summer with Enza Ferrari and Gianni Cappaletto in Orderzo, near Venice.

Recalling the scene outside La Scala, Salinas remembers being impressed by the peoples' "passion for music, their appreciation of opera. . . . It was incredibly affirming to see people wanting to hear what I want to do someday." □

BETTY GABRIELLI is senior staff writer in Oberlin's Office of Communications. Photographs courtesy of Daune Mahy.

Fly Away, Fly Away, Fly Away

Off-campus study is quite popular among Oberlin students, and by graduation about half of each class has spent at least one semester studying away from Oberlin. Besides the four programs sponsored by the College—Oberlin in Italy, Oberlin in China, Danenberg Oberlin in London, and at the Oberlin Center for European Studies at Strasbourg—students can choose from nearly three dozen international, domestic, and intercollege-exchange programs.

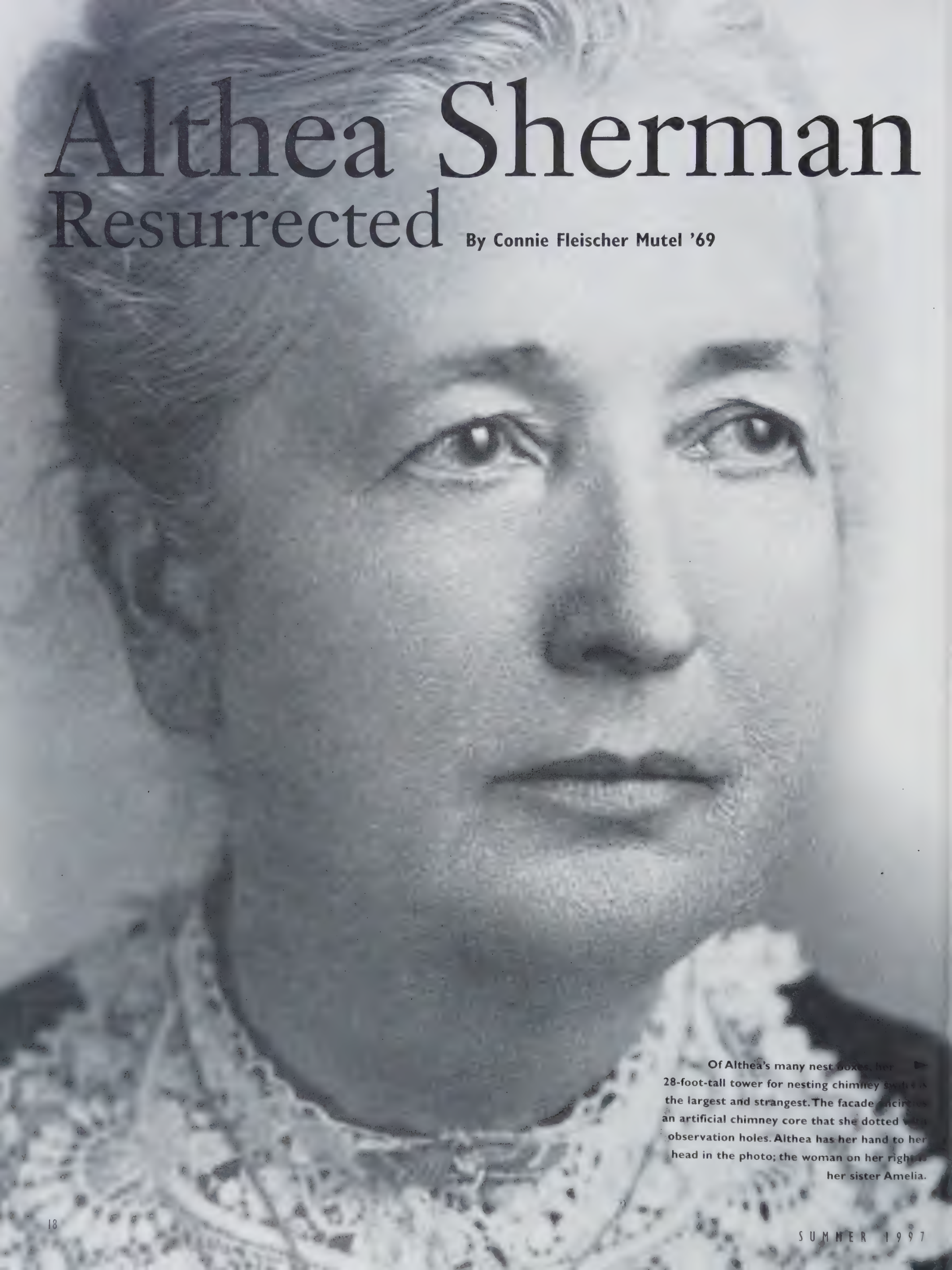


Above: Daune Mahy and her accompanist, Linda Hirt, accept tributes of flowers at last year's Gala Concert. Given by Oberlin-in-Italy faculty and students at the close of each year's program, the concert is broadcast on the local TV station and attended by scouts and music-festival directors from throughout Italy, providing student performers with valuable exposure.

Right: Derek Gray '97 and entering senior Lammie Pulliam gave an inspired performance of Rossini's "Cat Duet" before a packed house at Urbania's Salone Centro Studi in 1995.



Above: Visits to Milan, Florence, Venice, and Rome add two weeks to the group's month-long stay in Urbania. Members of the 1993 group look down from sightseeing and concert going in Rome to pose at the Pantheon. Clockwise from left: David Schneider '96, Jennifer Lewis '94, Kristen Dickinson '94, and Anna Walcott '94.



Althea Sherman

Resurrected

By Connie Fleischer Mutel '69

Of Althea's many nest boxes, her 28-foot-tall tower for nesting chimney swifts is the largest and strangest. The facade encircles an artificial chimney core that she dotted with observation holes. Althea has her hand to her head in the photo; the woman on her right is her sister Amelia.

The Truth is Thrill Enough

In 1895 42-year-old Althea Sherman quit her job as an art teacher to return to the family farm in northeastern Iowa and care for her ailing parents. Both were dead within seven years, but Althea stayed on, cooking and keeping house for her crotchety, miserly sister, a horse-and-buggy physician who had also returned to the family homestead, taking on the then-masculine role of chief breadwinner. The sisters sequestered themselves for decades thereafter, watching as the nearby village of National shriveled into a ghost town, centering their lives around the dooryard outside the kitchen window.

Althea was 90 years old when she died in 1943. Her life could be cast as a tale of unfulfilling isolation, of a woman whose family duties robbed her of the chance to shape and express her own desires. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In the one-acre dooryard where she pumped water and hung out clothes, she began observing the natural world with increasing interest. Soon her passions were focused on the 162 species of birds that fluttered near her back door and in the adjacent marsh, and on the winged newcomers that moved into the deserted houses nearby. She started building nest boxes for them—strange nest boxes with peepholes for observing their inhabitants and ports to remove babies for weighing or painting or for medical care.

Althea's studies absorbed all her time—

Artist and self-taught ornithologist, Althea Sherman has been dead for nearly half a century, but her work was given new life last year, when the University of Iowa Press republished her book, *Birds of an Iowa Dooryard*.

Althea was born eight years after her parents arrived in Iowa's Garniville Prairie from New York, via Wisconsin. She and her siblings—Julia Sherman St. John, E. Amelia Sherman, and Mark R. Sherman—all attended Oberlin College. A member of the Class of 1888, Mark did not graduate, although he went on to practice law in Chicago. Both Julia and Amelia graduated—in 1873 and 1874, respectively—and both became practicing physicians.

Althea's passion was art, and after earning a bachelor's degree in that subject at Oberlin in 1875, she held a general teaching position for a few years, until her passion got the better of her. She continued her training, studying at the Art Institute of Chicago and earning an Oberlin master's degree in 1882, and she went on to teach art at Carleton College and in the Tacoma, Washington, schools, where she was a supervisor of art.

Althea's friend Arthur J. Palas described her work in the foreword to the 1952 edition of *Birds of an Iowa Dooryard*: "Her art efforts were not in the direction of modern art. Much of modern art is not to paint what is seen, rather to have the work of art carry a thought or theme, something to carry the mind of the observer beyond the pigment and its arrangement on the canvas. It is doubtful that she would ever have depicted cheerfully what she had not seen. Her mind was of a scientific bent. . . . She tried to present to us, as nearly as she could, what she actually observed. Her theme was the truth and truth was thrill enough."

Althea did not give up her interest in art after returning to the Sherman Homestead in 1895, but her increasing interest in ornithology and her increasing confidence is apparent in her correspondence with Oberlin, now housed in the College archives. From 1875 until 1895, she answered College questionnaire inquiries as to occupation with "teaching art." Seven years after returning to Iowa she began describing her occupation as "student of birds."

The questionnaires asked recipients to list articles and publications, and Althea's first response came in 1908, when she noted "only unimportant articles on the subject of birds." By 1925, though, she overran the allotted space, and she added her field notes to the list. "In including field notes in the bibliography given above I have tried to conform to your request as I have understood it," she explained. "Much of the more important of my studies remain yet to be published."

The College sent another questionnaire to alumni in 1935. Althea's answer to the occupation inquiry: "(old age) Study of birds continued." She died eight years later.

—CN



OBERLIN COLLEGE ARCHIVES

other than that needed for the barest necessities—and from spring to fall migration, her life became one with the birds. She watched and recorded from dawn to dusk or, when focusing on an owl, until well past midnight. “Every phase of Flicker nest life passed within view,” she wrote of one her favorite species, “during which time

I combed my hair, ate my meals, and once dressed for a visit to the county seat.”

Her precise, meticulous observations covered first a few pages, then entire notebooks, with exacting explanations of what young birds were fed, when and how often, by whom, how their weight and size increased, and the like. Soon she was joining

OBERLIN COLLEGE ARCHIVES



“ Her life could be cast as a tale of unfulfilling isolation. Nothing could be further from the truth. ”

respected scientific societies, 15 in all, and writing paper after paper for professional journals. Although she had no formal training in science, Althea became a leading ornithologist, one whose work is yet to be contradicted by contemporary experts.

When she died she left 60 closely written notebooks on her shelves, along with a wish

that someone shape her writings into a book. A friend obliged, and *Birds of an Iowa Dooryard* was published in 1952, an 18-chapter tribute to Althea's nearly 40 years of absorbed, painstakingly accurate work. Useful to the serious student of ornithology, the amateur bird watcher, and anyone interested in humankind's interaction with the natural world, the book was republished last October by the University of Iowa Press.

The detail of Sherman's writing would be overwhelming were it not for her strong voice and wit. She records, for example, that in one busy day "118 lice [were picked] from one little Phoebe that weighed 161 grains and whose entire body scarcely equaled one-half the size of one's thumb." But the author's humor and style suffuse the detail, making the slightest incident in a young bird's life a well-told drama. Who could fail to transform their concept of night after reading that ". . . the Chickadee is well sheltered in the feather-lined nest of a House Wren . . . and we may be equally confident that Nuthatches and Downy Woodpeckers are comfortably housed in holes in the trees."

Althea was not without her idiosyncrasies. She did not hesitate to judge birds as good (prey species) or bad (predators or pests). She candidly admitted how she molded the bird life around her house. When the predatory kestrel—a bad bird—first nested nearby, she gave them "a trial . . . to watch closely their relations with other birds." The nestlings' fate rested on their parents' behavior. She extended her vendetta against the house wren, which pierces and destroys the eggs of other native species, beyond her life span by stipulating that whoever inherited her house should not allow wrens to nest on the property.

While the book will interest serious students of birds, I gravitated to another feature—Althea's knack for weaving together minute detail, the broader picture of a species' ecology, and changes in the Iowa countryside in the early 1900s. Many of these changes must have been obvious to Althea, the daughter of pioneers who built one of the first houses on the prairie near Dubuque. When her memory did not stretch back far enough, she found it "desirable to question men of eighty years



or upward, who were familiar with farming operations of long ago," dryly adding, "I began none too soon, since now all my informants are dead."

Althea watched the surrounding terrain evolve from treeless grassland to agricultural land and patchy forest, noticing that cardinals, flickers, and red-headed woodpeckers followed homesteads and trees onto former prairies, and that the bronzed grackle population increased when conifers were planted. But she did more than observe; she recognized the relationship between en-croaching civilization and changing natural habitats long before others made the connection. "Never before in our immediate neighborhood . . . had Sparrow Hawks nested, yet for years man and nature had been at work preparing the way for them."

Althea's records still provide unique insights, reminding us that the natural world is far from static. Her record of the transformations of 100 years ago can help us deduce the future effects of humans on local and global environments. Her astute comments elucidated how diminishing biodiversity and habitat are tied to our lifestyles. Commenting on the impact of plowing, mowing, and grazing on birds such as the bobolink, she wrote, "If long ago everyone had become a vegetarian . . . if chemists had placed on the market synthetic butter, milk, cheese, and ice cream, the ground nesting birds would not have fared so badly."

I came away from *Birds of an Iowa Dooryard* with a new sense of intimacy with birds and a deeper understanding of ecological processes. I also made a new and inspiring friend. For although Althea's writings are largely scientific, her character runs through them as clear as a silvery river. A strong-willed woman, she devoted her life to understanding, illuminating, and defending the animals she loved. That passion infuses every chapter, reminding us of the value of intense dedication, of the rewards of the life lived beyond the orderly and conventional.

She also taught me something about aging. Here was a woman whose life essentially began after societal duties to family had ended, when many recline into passivity. Althea was past 50 when she began most clearly to follow her own path and shape it into her own unique exploration of worth. Such a treatise cannot help but inspire today's baby boomers, who are at the age Althea was when she

returned to her family homestead.

Althea embodied our notion of a life grounded in the natural world at our doorsteps, where we can find intensity and richness beyond the wildest expectations. We could use such grounding in our modern fast-paced lives—so could the birds, worms, mushrooms, frogs, mosses, prairie flowers, and all the other creatures that surround us. Imagine what we might learn if each of us immersed our creativity and spirit in one aspect of the earth that sustains us. Imagine what knowledgeable care we might be able to give the Earth and its creatures. Our Earth deserves such care, just as Althea deserves the resurrection her book has received, just as she deserved the unexpected resurrection the birds at her dooryard gave her a century ago. So do we all. It's there, waiting for us. □

CONNIE FLEISCHER MUTELIS
historian of science at the University of Iowa's
Institute of Hydraulic Research. Consulting
editor for the UI's natural-history publications,
she has written, edited, or reviewed a variety of
books and articles on global change, natural
history, the history of hydraulics, and other
environmental topics. She is coeditor of *The
Tallgrass Restoration Handbook*, which was
released this year by Island Press. Look for it in
the Fall 1997 OAM's "Issued" section.

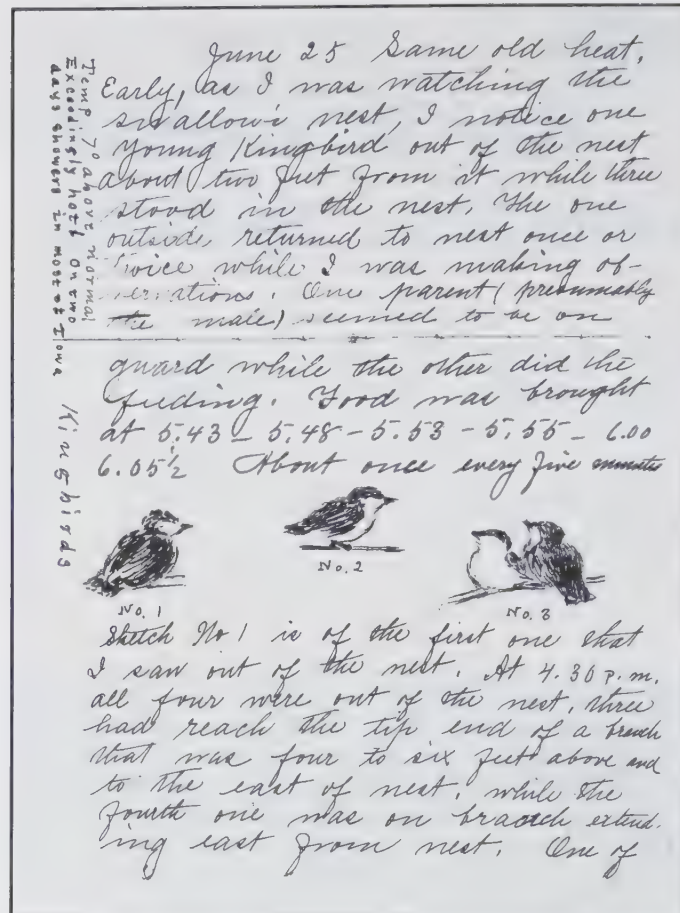
Empowered by Nature

Empowerment was a very real force when I studied at Oberlin in the 1960s. But only after I left did I fully extend that theme to the world that touched me the most deeply: the natural world and its nonhuman inhabitants.

Just as Oberlin's gray climate shunts students into the library to study (or so we were told), so Iowa's corn-dominated landscape—my home for the past 20 years—forces nature lovers to be open to opportunity. When recently offered the chance to review for a local newspaper an outspoken, long-dead, female ornithologist's republished book, I grabbed it. I became enthralled, not only with the description of an empowered life focused on the same Iowan environment that entrances me, but with a woman who, like me, was obsessed with this landscape and its creatures. Imagine my pleasure when I discovered that this woman, born nearly a century before me, had also been an Oberlin student.

Althea Sherman: fellow lover of nature, fellow activist, fellow woman and kindred spirit. She leads onward. The circles, as they continue to tighten, allure us with their gifts of delight.

—CFM



Top: A page from Althea's journals.

Bottom: Althea's sketch of developing birds at one, two, five, and six days old. She often said that some of her success as an ornithologist could be attributed to her eye for detail, trained during "painstaking" drawing lessons at Oberlin.



Alumni News & Notes

On writing the worst possible play; how to make it to Carnegie Hall; from Oxford to Cambridge, with the Atlantic in-between; two-of-a-kind, doubled; eighth blackbird on the wing.



Year by Year

1924 Irene Prichard

Hungerford observed her 100th birthday last December in Kent, Ohio, with family, friends, and several members of her church on hand for the celebration. Irene earned a nursing degree at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in 1921, and was a visiting nurse in Cleveland when she met and married Harlan Hungerford. When he joined the Kent State University faculty, Irene became a member of the Kent Weavers' Guild and taught several classes at the university. She took her first textile tour of Europe in her 60s, and later traveled through the Scandinavian countries to observe other weaving techniques. The centenarian is planning a second trip to England in the spring of 1997.

1927 After a long career in social work in several states, **Helen Martin Brown** moved to Hawaii in 1981. Her personal and professional interests in improving the lives of children led to jobs at a school for delinquent girls; as a child welfare consultant for over 20 counties in northwest Iowa; and as a supervisor of foster care and licensing. She was

executive director of a group of child-care centers, and a public-school social worker. During her career, Helen was included in *Who's Who of American Women*, *Who's Who in Wisconsin*, and *Who's Who in the Midwest*. Since retiring she has traveled extensively with People to People, visited many Elderhostels, toured every continent except Antarctica several times, and for the last 11 years, worked as an AARP-IRS volunteer. Address: Arcadia Retirement Residence, 1434 Punahou St., #1004, Honolulu, HI 96822-4740.

1935 Class president **Lucy Irwin Hayward** and her husband, **Sumner**, are living in a retirement village in New Hampshire, near Concord, and Lucy's sister, Harriet Irwin '37, has joined them there. They enjoy the company of two of the Haywards' four children who live nearby. After 17 years of retirement in Oberlin, the Haywards say they miss Oberlin's music, but have found the return to New England "a delight, even with a foot of snow on the ground."

1938 **Larry Derr** and his wife, Gladys, moved from Canandaigua, N.Y., to Wadsworth, Ohio, in June 1996. Address: 195 S. Pardee St., Apt. 512, Wadsworth, OH 44281-1462. Phone: (330) 335-1213.

▼ **Gilbert Fischer**, after earning an MM at North Texas University in 1949, an MA in English in 1950, followed by a PhD in philosophy at the University of Chicago, has made professional use of all three disciplines: he taught music at Southern Illinois University for five years; humanities in Chicago Junior College for 10; and philosophy at

Purdue University-Calumet for the next 17 years. Gilbert, now retired, lives in Florida, where he gives a number of solo piano recitals each season, including a recent performance at the University of South Florida's School of Music. Address: 2101 Sunset Point Rd., Clearwater, FL 34625. Phone: (813) 441-1611.

1944 Artist **Dorothy Hartman Schulz** held her seventh one-woman show in September 1996 at the Hoosier Salon in Indianapolis. Entitled *The Odyssey of a Colorist*, the 27-piece exhibition included watercolors, monotypes, and a casein painting. Since 1990 Dorothy has painted on location in Italy, Bermuda, and Maui, often incorporating into her still-life paintings the peonies, irises, and rhododendrons she loves to grow in her garden. Address: 9540 Copley Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46260.

1947 **Marion Thomas Givens** says she has been looking forward to her 50th reunion at Oberlin in May 1997. Retired from her career teaching piano at a private Manhattan school, she resides in New York City close to her daughter, Anne. Her son, William, lives in Minnesota with his wife and Marion's two young grandsons. Address: 116 East 68th St., New York, NY 10021. Phone: (212) 772-6324.

1949 **Bill Hess** and **Winifred "Westher" Lowdermilk Hess** have retired to California. Bill was formerly with the U.S. Department of Energy in Germantown, Md. Address: 1620 Le Roy Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709.

1952 **David Staley** won first

place in the International Triathlon Union's World Long Distance Championships in the 65-69 age group. The race, held last September in Muncie, Ind., required a 1.2-mile swim, a 56-mile bike race, and a 13.1-mile run. David completed the event in five hours, 22 minutes, and seven seconds, six minutes ahead of the second-place finisher. He won the Olympic Distance World Championships in 1990 and came in second in 1995. He says he owes his success to his wife, Pat, and to his training partners. The retired Ohio Wesleyan University professor of mathematics and former swimming coach says he is planning to cut back on his racing schedule next year. "I just feel like taking a couple of years and not doing very much," he says.

1953 **Darwin L. Palmer** retired in July 1995 after 29 years of teaching academic medicine and as chief of the infectious disease division at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and V.A. Hospital. Within eight weeks he was at the Department of Medicine of Zimbabwe, Africa, teaching students there how to cope with infectious disease. His wife, Sue, joined him in Harare, and the following year Darwin received a Fulbright grant for senior scholar research and teaching. He is researching HIV and TB, and "having a great time sight-seeing." He has explored Victoria Falls, Hwange National Park, Gonoraadzhou ("place of the elephants"), Mozambique, Zambia, and Namibia. He says "This part of the world is an exciting, dynamic region to visit and a great place for a 'retired' I.D. doc." E-mail: dpalmer@healthnet.zw ▼ **Michael**

1953 CONTINUED

Sperber continues as a psychiatric consultant to the Sheriff's Department, Middlesex County, Mass., and says he is "struggling against the crime of punishment and Governor Weld's avowed intent to transform corrective facilities into 'circles of hell.'" Mike is consultant to Evaluation and Family Counseling, Haitians and Minorities (EFACHAM). He says that members of minority groups and people with English as a second language are "invariably misdiagnosed and over-medicated by Anglo mental health providers." EFACHAM tries to conduct sessions in the client's own language, and to see the problem in its cultural context. Mike's essay, "Variations on a Theme of Shame: Glenn Gould and Chekov's 'The Man in a Shell'" was accepted for publication in *Psychoanalytic Review*. His son, Jeff '90, is the photographer for the Seattle Opera Company, and his daughter, Lisa, is taking her MFA at Warren Wilson College. Address: 92 Pearl St., Cambridge, MA 02139. Phone: (617) 576-7229.

1954 **G. Roy Levin** says that he first began to draw during the boring faculty meetings at Goddard College, where he taught theater and film in the late '60s and '70s. He credits his doodling as paving the way to his present career as an artist. Roy has been making art for 18 years, exhibiting in New York City, Vermont, and London. Most recently he had six one-person exhibitions in Germany, displaying paintings relating to the Holocaust, and a similar exhibit in Auschwitz, Poland.

In 1991 Roy became director of a low-residency MFA program in visual arts at Vermont College. "Being 66 is weird," he says, "but we all know the alternative." Address: Vermont College, Montpelier, VT 05602. Phone: (802) 828-8614. Fax: (802) 828-8508.

1957 **Marva Laster Harris** retired in June 1996 after 39 years as a vocal and instrumental music teacher in Cleveland's public schools. Aside from scheduling school classes, she also taught private piano students and directed several church choirs. Address: 18506 Van Aken Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44122. Phone: (216) 561-0840.

1960 **Susan Griswold Blandy** has won the 1997 ASLS/Franklin Book Company Spirit of Librarianship Award. The tribute is presented to "an academic or special librarian who typifies the spirit of commitment, and has made contributions to the profession that inspire others to high levels of performance." Susan has been Hudson Valley Community College's librarian for over 25 years, and specializes in library instruction, teaching critical thinking, and offering multicultural services. She is coauthor of five books about the library as a profession, and is cofounder of the *Academic and Special Libraries Section Newsletter*. "We are light-bearers," she says. "We know where the light came from and we shed that light so that others can see what is available to them. What's more, we can give people their own lights to shine." ▼ **Mike Codel** wants his friends to know that he has

a new e-mail address: mirico@mirico.com ▼ **Joel Montague** returned to his home in Wellesley, Mass., in March 1997 after three years as a public health officer in Cambodia. Initially he was a family health officer with the PACT/JSJ Cambodia Community Outreach Program, and then contracted to survey the private for-profit health sector there for the World Health Organization. ▼ **Sandra Ward** and Ronald Mann were married November 9, 1996, in Kaneohe, Hawaii, "after being together for the better part of 20 years," says Sandra. Linda Graf Salter '61 was among the wedding guests. Sandra is a social science editor and publishing consultant specializing in the population field; Ron is vice president and sales manager at Bank of America-Hawaii. While on their honeymoon in Guanajuato, Mexico, they were entertained for an evening by John and Mercedes Singleton Lichtwardt, both '50. Address: 54-180 Mahalani Place, No. 39, Kaneohe, HI 96744. E-mail: wardsandra@aol.com

1963 **Marilynn A. Moch** has a multifaceted career: she is director of program development for Income Support Programs, New York City Human Resources Administration; professor of social policy at various New York city colleges and universities; field supervisor at the United Nations; and commissioner for North America Human Rights Commission, International Federation of Social Workers. Address: 32 Chestnut St., Central Islip, NY 11722. Phone: (516) 232-3156. ▼ **Selma D. Sheldon** recently completed a DM degree at Toronto School of Theology, and moved from Ontario in September 1996 to the Congregational ministry of Esquimalt United Church in Victoria, British Columbia. Address: 255 Robert St., Victoria, B.C. V9A 3Z1 Canada.

1965 **Lois Hemmeter Edwards**, an educational technology consultant, is the designer of Graphers, a mathematics software tool for grades K-4. The program recently earned a software award from *Technology and Learning*, a national education journal. One of Lois' earlier software designs, Data Insights, received a similar award in 1991. Lois has been designing educational math software for 16 years. Address: 6513 Nordic Dr.,

Edina, MN 55439. E-mail: laedwards@aol.com ▼ **Carolyn Doggett Smith** and **Guy J. Smith** are operating a small press, Aletheia Publications, publishing books of interest to Americans who are now living or who have lived overseas. Among their recently published titles are *Military Brats*, *The Unknown Ambassadors*, and *Strangers at Home*. Address: Aletheia Publications, 38-15 Corporal Kennedy St., Bayside, NY 11361. Phone: (718) 224-6303.

1966 The Frank J. Miele Gallery in Manhattan is featuring the "found art" compositions of **W. Logan Fry**, who began as a corporate lawyer, as did Miele before becoming director of the gallery. In the collection are Logan's sculptural heads decorated with nails, leather, and brightly painted twigs. Logan has exhibited work at the School of Visual Arts and other New York City venues. Logan also exhibits sculpture and textile works in the Cleveland Museum of Art's May Show, and has produced commissions in a variety of media for Kaiser Permanente, MetroHealth Medical Center, University Hospitals and Children's Hospital Medical Center in Akron. "A New York gallery at last—wondered if it would ever happen," he says. Address: 2835 Southern Rd., Richfield, OH 44286. Phone: (216) 659-3104. ▼ **Marsha Kendall Smith** has a new career, a new address, a commuter marriage, and is in a race with her son, Timothy Kinte Smith '94, to see which of them will earn an advanced degree first. After more than 20 years as a vocal music teacher and performing arts administrator in Massachusetts, she is assistant professor of music at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and predicts that, because of her heavy teaching schedule, Kinte may graduate from Boston College Law School before she completes requirements for her PhD. Marsha and her husband, Hugh, a psychiatrist in Newton, Mass., will celebrate 30 years of marriage in June. Address: 4410 N. Wilson Dr., Apt. 3, Shorewood, WI 53211. Phone: (414) 229-4550. E-mail: marshaks@csd.uwm.edu

1967 **Ellen Chances** moved to Manhattan last July, and continues her academic career as professor of Russian literature at Princeton, while producing a steady stream of

Alexander's Feast

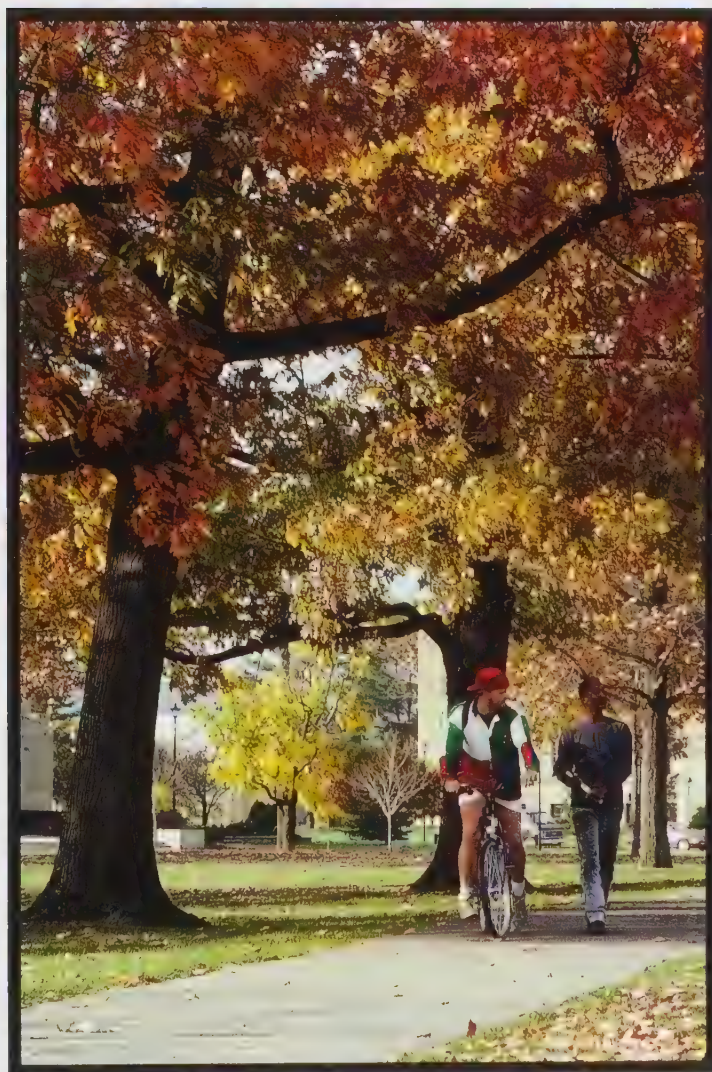
Los Angeles's Pacific Chorale threw a party for John Alexander '65 (right) to cele-



brate his 25 years of service to the chorale and to the community. John is the founder and conductor of the chorale, which is known for its artistic excellence and its outreach to the greater Los Angeles area. As a special surprise, the chorale brought John's Oberlin mentor, Professor of Organ Haskell Thomson '58 (left), to speak at the event, held March 12 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Newport Beach, California. — RC

broad directions

for oberlin's future



Oberlin
2020
BUILDING OUR FUTURE

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Anderson

the book covers the migration of the Beckwith family from Russia to Boston in the 1880s, and the building of life in the new world: first-hand

appeared in nearly 40 journals within the last few months. Address: 25 E. 10th St. 7C, New York, NY 10003. Phone: (212) 529-7745. ▼ Mike



At the start of this academic year, I initiated a long-range planning process, with the goal of developing some over-arching priorities and identifying some agreed-upon broad directions that would assist us in planning for Oberlin's future. This report has come out of that planning process, along with the individual reports of the fourteen planning teams.

I want to thank everybody who has had a role in this broad-based process over the course of this year. This means that I thank virtually everybody on the faculty, as well as many students, staff, alumni and trustees. Members of the General Faculty Planning Committee as well as several other faculty members from the Conservatory and the College, six students, and several trustees and senior administrators served on the Planning Advisory Committee.

About 450 members of the Oberlin community took part in the fall focus groups. One hundred sixty-seven Oberlinians (70 faculty, 37 staff, 28 students, 8 alumni, and 24 trustees) participated as members of the planning teams. Two hundred and twenty people attended the town meetings in March. Many other people on and off campus gave of their time and ideas as consultants to the planning teams and as thoughtful and encouraging commentators.

This kind of process is very important for us at this moment in our history, for it can enable us to create a shared framework for planning. This was the first goal for this process, and I feel certain we have accomplished it.

Why is a shared framework for planning so important? Clearly, incremental planning occurs on an ongoing basis all over campus, in various forums, large and small. This is good and it will certainly continue. But in order to ensure that we are not working at cross-purposes, and that the planning in one part of the College builds upon and enhances planning in another, we need a shared sense of priorities and directions—a context within which to plan and to make decisions. These priorities and directions will be the “stars to guide us,” in Professor Lisa Crawford’s phrase.

The second reason that this planning process has been so important is that it has begun to move us towards a common language about our mission and purpose. Such a common language is critical to forging new collaborations among ourselves and creating new synergies between divisions and among departments and various groups on campus. In this, too, I think our process this year has been very successful.

What has been most impressive to me is the way in which so many Oberlin voices have come together in a powerful way over the past year. There is much overlap in the ideas and themes that emerge from the focus groups and planning teams and much agreement about the key elements that will shape our deliberations about our future.

This process has resulted in a powerful affirmation of each of the distinctive elements of Oberlin’s mission—our intellectual seriousness and academic excellence and rigor; our artistic excellence and the extraordinary vibrancy of our arts community; our belief that the best undergraduate education is an education in social engagement; and our long-standing commitment to educational access and social diversity.

Our planning process has also resulted in a strong affirmation of our

Introduction



Beach, California.

—RC

insights, received a similar award in 1991. Lois has been designing educational math software for 16 years. Address: 6513 Nordic Dr.,

to Manhattan last July, and continues her academic career as professor of Russian literature at Princeton, while producing a steady stream of

mission as a preeminent liberal arts college and as a conservatory of music devoted to providing young musicians with the best possible professional music education. Both, we believe, will remain the very best kind of preparation we can provide to future generations of students.

The reports from the planning teams also reaffirm Oberlin's identity as a residential college, where education takes place in relationship, face-to-face. What emerges from these reports is a conviction that our residential community will be ever more important in the coming decades. It enables us to distinguish ourselves and our mission from new and increasingly sophisticated forms of mass education, such as distance learning and virtual classrooms. More importantly, an Oberlin education is an education in learning to understand and appreciate human differences, to develop the capacity for empathy and the ability to see the world from points of view other than our own, and to learn from a vast array of co-curricular activities as well as in our classrooms, studios, laboratories, and rehearsal spaces.

The planning team reports also make clear that our entire community is deeply committed to creating a genuinely diverse college that supports and empowers every individual within it. As I have said many times, I believe that there is nothing more important to the success of higher education in general and to Oberlin in particular than to articulate clearly and implement strategies which make Oberlin as richly diverse as it can be in the composition of its faculty, student body, staff, and curriculum.

Our planning has also made clear that Oberlin feels a deep need to strengthen its sense of community through every aspect of living and learning here. Be it student associational activities, technology, athletics, life in our residence and dining halls and co-ops, interdisciplinary curriculum development, supporting new faculty, developing our traditions of student-faculty research, enhancing our outreach and community initiatives, or even the construction and renovation of buildings, the theme of community is continuous and powerful in these reports. Taken together, they point us in the direction of a more supportive, cooperative and collaborative Oberlin, and an Oberlin with far more flexible and permeable boundaries, whether these be the boundaries of academic departments, the relationship between the Conservatory and the College, or the relationship between Oberlin College and Oberlin, Ohio.

Finally, there is a clear sense expressed by the planning teams that Oberlin has the means and the will to enhance our status as a national model of educational excellence in many ways. In saying this, though, I think it is important to consider the fact that Oberlin has never aimed simply to be an excellent college and conservatory. The members of the Educational Access planning team put it best. We at Oberlin, they tell us, "will have to teach ourselves as well as our future students how to create and sustain a community dedicated simultaneously to the values of equity, excellence and generosity."

Nancy S. Dye
President
April 22, 1997



from President Dye

2

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appeared in nearly 10 journals within the last few months. Address: 25 E. 10th St. 7C, New York, NY 10003. Phone: (212) 529-7745. ▼ Mike



We, the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee, are pleased to present the report on Oberlin's long-range planning process, *Broad Directions for Oberlin's Future*. Along with this letter, you are receiving an integrative statement suggesting key principles for Oberlin's planning in future years. We ask that you give this document your thoughtful consideration.

As you know, this report has been more than a year in the making. Each part of Oberlin, including students, faculty, staff, the Board of Trustees, alumni and friends, came together in focus groups, town meetings, planning teams, dorm raps, alumni gatherings and a variety of other campus-wide discussions. Perhaps it is not surprising to discover the overlap and agreement about key elements which must shape our future.

This is an evolving document, which will change as we have more discussions together about the strategic directions articulated in this report. We urge you to participate in these discussions during the coming year.

We sincerely thank the hundreds of individuals who gave willingly and unselfishly of their time and energy to bring this report to fruition.

— Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee Members

David Boe, Professor of Organ
 Charlene Cole-Newkirk '74, Dean of Student Life and Services
 Yolanda Cruz, Associate Professor of Biology
 Young Dawkins, Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs
 Patrick Day '71, Associate Professor of English
 Nelson de Jesus, Associate Professor of French
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 Grover Zinn, Danforth Professor of Religion

Broad Directions for Oberlin's Future

These broad directions are framed as a series of statements about an Oberlin education. They are meant to be statements to point us toward the future, although they are stated in the present tense. Following each of these statements is a synthesis of the ideas and strategic recommendations contained in the planning team reports. Each planning team report contains additional ideas and recommendations in much greater detail. The reports of the fourteen planning teams are available on Oberlin's web page:

www.oberlin.edu/~wwwcom/planning/teamreports.html.

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An Oberlin education is one provided by an excellent and diverse *faculty* devoted to teaching undergraduates.

Oberlin requires its faculty, first and foremost, to be actively committed to teaching. We believe that teaching and learning involve an intense and dynamic relationship between student and professor. As a residential college, Oberlin should affirm that faculty should be available to students in person, over the long term, and be directly concerned with many aspects of their education, inside and outside the classroom. What a student gains from a pedagogy of active learning, besides acquiring knowledge and intellectual and artistic skills, is mentoring, modeling, and continual personal interchange, all of which are critical if one is to comprehend the world and act successfully in it.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, sustained professional engagement of faculty with the world of scholarship is essential to realizing continued intellectual vitality and effective teaching. Likewise in the Conservatory, continued involvement in performance and scholarship is crucial to teaching excellence.

Oberlin has entered a period of major change in the composition of its faculty. Over the next decade, a substantial percentage of its tenured faculty will reach retirement age. We will be continuously recruiting significant numbers of new faculty. To maintain the excellence of our faculty, Oberlin should aggressively develop a coordinated set of programs designed to reinforce and improve Oberlin's reputation as a premier teaching institution.

strategic recommendations:

- **Enhance teaching**

Faculty must be enabled and encouraged to develop their abilities in all respects: as engaging teachers at all levels, as mentors and advisors, and as role models.

- **Provide continuing support for faculty scholarship and training**

Faculty must be encouraged to develop their intellectual and creative talents throughout all phases of their professional lives. We recommend that the College devote sufficient resources to ensure that faculty members continue to remain current in their fields, advance their scholarship or performance and artistic development, and refocus where needed, throughout their careers at Oberlin.

- **Build a diverse faculty community**

Oberlin will only be able to attract the best faculty and serve our students when the faculty is richly diverse, supportive, and welcoming. We recommend the development of a clear, well-articulated, and long-range program designed to create a faculty that reflects the diversity of American society.

- **Develop measures to integrate new faculty into the life of the community**

We recommend the development of programs that can support the successful integration of new faculty into the Oberlin community, especially women, people of color, and international faculty. We must also recognize that the quality of life in the City of Oberlin is a major factor in recruiting and retaining faculty, and resolve to work cooperatively and creatively with our local community to enhance the educational and recreational resources of Oberlin, Ohio, and Lorain County.

5



Beach, California.

- RC

1991. Lois has been designing educational math software for 16 years. Address: 6513 Nordic Dr.,

her academic career as professor of Russian literature at Princeton, while producing a steady stream of



- **Improve the faculty rewards system**

Faculty should be rewarded in a fashion that is predictable, fair, and appropriate. We recommend a thorough re-evaluation of our reward structure to ensure that it is clear and goal-oriented, enhances community values, and is adequate to compensate faculty for the full variety of their creative, productive, and intellectual endeavors.

- **Systematically review the faculty governance system**

We recommend that the faculty re-evaluate the structures of civic life at Oberlin now administered by and with the faculty to ascertain whether those structures require more commitment of faculty resources than the benefits such commitment produces. We should reorganize these structures when necessary to increase participation, encourage the engagement of newer faculty, and permit the interests of the college and its faculty to be served more productively.

- **Recognize as essential the Conservatory's need to attract and hire faculty members in applied music who are able to draw highly gifted students to their studios.**

- **Enable Conservatory faculty to perform professionally outside Oberlin in order to maintain contact and credibility with the professional world of music.**

- **Encourage curricular and hiring flexibility**

Oberlin's excellence depends upon teachers and scholars who are characterized by the creativity and broad scope of their minds. To build as strong a faculty as we possibly can over this period of rapid change within our faculty ranks, we must encourage flexibility in hiring, particularly by developing methods for allocating positions that allow hiring in emerging areas of knowledge not organized along traditional disciplinary lines; devising better pathways for blending departmental/disciplinary structures with interdisciplinary structures; and formulating creative approaches to the issue of joint hiring between Arts and Sciences and the Conservatory.

- **Enhance opportunities and incentives for collaborative faculty work, both on our campus and with other colleges and universities, whether in interdisciplinary teaching, curriculum development, or research.**

- **In hiring new faculty and encouraging ongoing faculty development, pay particular attention to ways in which faculty can address new subject matter, methodologies, and theories, many of which are inherently interdisciplinary.**

- **Provide ongoing opportunities for all faculty to keep abreast of developments in informational and educational technologies and to incorporate these technologies in their teaching and scholarship.**

for faculty

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promotions and photography there for two years before enrolling in a



Anderson

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An Oberlin education is an education in learning to live together in a richly diverse community.

We proudly embrace Oberlin's heritage as the nation's first multiracial, coeducational institution of higher learning, and we seek to enlarge upon this tradition as we enter the twentieth-first century. The fostering of a diverse community of students, faculty and staff is central to Oberlin's mission and critical to Oberlin's success as a leading institution of higher education. Oberlin must create a community in which our differences are not simply tolerated or even celebrated but recognized as fundamental to the development and creativity of the entire Oberlin community. We must teach ourselves as well as our students how to create and sustain a community dedicated simultaneously to the values of equity, excellence, and generosity.

To foster diversity at Oberlin we must realize strategic direction in four areas: keeping and enhancing Oberlin's traditions of educational access and a diverse student body; enhancing the diversity of our faculty and staff; making our curriculum reflect the rich cultural diversity of American society and the world at large; and creating a campus climate that embraces and supports diversity and is welcoming and supportive of every member of the community.



strategic recommendations:

• Enhance the diversity of Oberlin's student body and our tradition of educational access by:

- *taking proactive steps in admissions to enlarge and tap more effectively the pool of highly talented students in the United States and abroad from a wide range of cultural, social, and economic backgrounds*
- *ensure Oberlin's ability to provide generous financial aid and merit scholarships to attract the most talented and diverse student body to Oberlin, enable our students to complete their education without undue financial pressure for students after they graduate*
- *develop and implement a variety of strategies for enhancing Oberlin's support for all students to ensure successful progress toward graduation.*

• Build a diverse faculty and staff

Oberlin must take steps to see to it that all faculty and staff see themselves as part of a supportive and inclusive community committed to the historic and defining goals of the College. We recommend the development of a clear, well-articulated, and long-range program designed to bring to Oberlin and retain an excellent and diverse faculty and staff.

• Create a diverse curriculum

An Oberlin education must prepare students to be socially aware, to develop qualities of empathy, and to be sensitive to differences among people, including differences of race, culture, sexual orientation, abilities, and ideas and convictions. Throughout our curriculum, we need to ensure that students learn about and experience diversity, with the goal of living together in a multicultural, multiracial society.

We recommend the review of the current cultural diversity requirement with an eye to determining its adequacy in assuring that graduates are educated in the diversity of American society and prepared to contribute productively to a diverse world.

• Create a campus climate that embraces diversity and is welcoming of the contributions of all members of the campus community

Facilitate the exploration and mutual appreciation of our differences through civil cross-cultural conversations about diversity through:

- *encouraging dialogues on diversity throughout the Oberlin community*
- *providing faculty development to foster creative and effective ways to address issues of diversity and teach effectively in multicultural classrooms*
- *providing staff development to foster ways to work and interact effectively within a diverse community.*

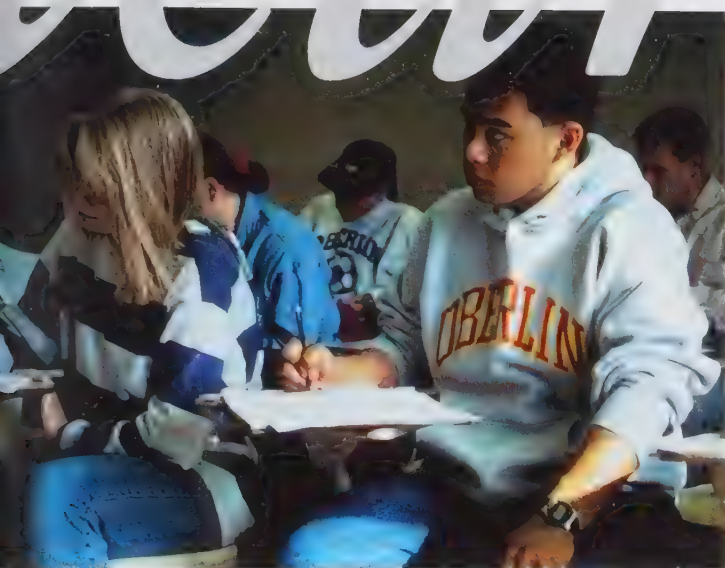


Beach, California.

— RC

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her academic career as professor of Russian literature at Princeton, while producing a steady stream of



An Oberlin education is an education in learning how to learn.

Oberlin affirms the centrality of a liberal arts education and a professional music education to our students' lives and work over years of ever-greater social, cultural, and technological change. We believe that these will remain the best preparation for our students' future.

A liberal arts education is inherently valuable in that it develops intellectual self-confidence, a capacity and a desire for continuing intellectual growth, critical and creative thinking, and the skills, knowledge and personal values that will support the pursuit of individual goals. Oberlin Conservatory degrees offer the most talented and motivated young musicians an education in music that balances specific career training with an education in reading, writing, and communicating effectively; thinking critically; and acting with sensitivity as responsible citizens in an increasingly diverse community.

To ensure continued educational excellence, Oberlin must develop curricula designed to ensure that graduates leave the College understanding disciplines not simply as discrete bodies of knowledge but also as modes of inquiry, ways of perceiving themselves and understanding their relationship to others and the world.

strategic recommendations:

To ensure that our educational programs and curricula best meet the needs of our students in the future, we must develop:

- the intellectual tools necessary for students' lifelong self-education and self-knowledge
- student understanding of a broad range of methodologies and fields of study and a coherent intellectual fluency in at least one discipline
- a coherent educational experience for all students facilitated by such strategies as strengthening advising and encouraging intellectual mentoring
- social awareness and sensitivity to differences among people
- an up-to-date computing infrastructure that enables students and faculty to use informational and educational technologies to their fullest advantage
- training in information literacy so that students can access the information they need and make critical judgments about its quality
- life and career skills appropriate to both Conservatory and College students, acknowledging the changing job markets for our graduates and emphasizing the skills and knowledge which students may need in their adult lives. Conservatory students, in particular, need more focus on career choices and career management
- students' abilities to work collaboratively with others on intellectual and social projects and to think in integrative ways
- enhanced educational opportunities in the Conservatory for arts and sciences students
- greater curricular coherence and clearer articulation of the educational goals of the programs of study our Conservatory students complete in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Also, we must:

- examine current student course loads and the current system of course credit with an eye to assessing its appropriateness. Consider the alteration and possible reduction of student course loads and the number of credits required for graduation.

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An Oberlin education fosters intellectual and artistic connections and *collaborations* across disciplinary boundaries.

Interdisciplinary education—collaborations across presently constituted disciplinary boundaries—will play an ever more central role in the future of learning and teaching. Oberlin should aim to provide its graduates with the skills and experiences to work creatively and productively across traditional boundaries, in multicultural communities, and in the ever-changing contexts of the vocations and avocations they will pursue in their adult lives.

The intellectual vitality of interdisciplinary education emerges both from connections made across disciplinary boundaries and in the emergence of new areas of inquiry. A genuinely interdisciplinary education must identify themes essential to the development of understanding in several disciplines, and support collaborations to explore these connections.

strategic recommendations:

To foster interdisciplinary education, Oberlin should:

- design a flexible approach to curriculum development, with specific encouragement for courses that represent points of theoretical or practical intersection between disciplines and team-taught courses for students at all levels to explore significant and enduring issues in the liberal arts
- develop opportunities for students to explore interdisciplinary issues and questions through internships, practica and service learning opportunities. Such opportunities will give our students experience in crossing disciplinary boundaries and in working in intellectual collaboration to solve problems
- provide support for faculty to engage directly with issues concerning interdisciplinary pedagogy and reward faculty for interdisciplinary teaching.



9

Beach, California.

- RC

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An Oberlin education is an education in *the arts*.

With its rich traditions of arts education, its world-class Conservatory and Allen Memorial Art Museum, its nationally-recognized programmatic strengths in art history and studio, creative writing, theater, and dance, and its remarkable traditions of student artistic initiatives and collaborations in all of the musical, fine and performing arts, Oberlin is uniquely placed to become a national model for higher education in the arts.

Oberlin must ensure the continued success of our world-class Conservatory of Music, recognize the potential synergies of a rich partnership between the College and the Conservatory, further support and integrate the curriculum of the college arts program, and creatively build upon the presence of a world-class museum of art.

An understanding of the arts as process and not merely as product should be integral to the experience of every Oberlin student because the arts are ways of communicating the deepest human experiences. Every Oberlin student should learn how artists think and appreciate what artists do.

strategic recommendations:

To support and enhance our vibrant artistic community, we must:

- find effective ways to coordinate and represent the needs of the artistic community and to articulate these needs within the administration
- ensure the best facilities for meeting the individual and collaborative needs of faculty and student artists. Specifically, we need to enhance exhibition and studio space for visual artists; rehearsal and performance space for musicians; technical support space and equipment for opera and theater productions and for multimedia work and display; and provide a fully equipped technical laboratory for visual and musical computer-based art processes
- focus the artistic community in an integrated arts curriculum to enhance the inter-relatedness of currently-taught courses, encourage the development of courses that introduce College and Conservatory students together to the common languages of artistic disciplines, and enhance the Museum's ability to participate fully in collaborative programming
- facilitate opportunities for Conservatory students and faculty to collaborate with peers in theater, dance, and the visual arts
- provide rigorous, comprehensive programs of study for those who wish to pursue music and other arts professionally and encourage and support students who wish to explore and refine their skills and knowledge of the arts for avocational purposes
- explore the possibilities of film as an integral part of a liberal arts education at Oberlin
- strengthen and clarify the mission of the Allen Memorial Art Museum as a teaching museum
- expand and enhance arts outreach opportunities for our students and faculty through fostering relationships and collaborations with arts organizations in Cleveland, Lorain County, and northeast Ohio generally.



the Arts 10

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An Oberlin education ensures broad-based *science* literacy for all students, and maintains its long-standing preeminence in educating future scientists.

Building on the College's long-standing traditions of excellence in the natural sciences, Oberlin must seek creative ways to introduce a diverse student population to the wondrous variety and unity of science and to an understanding of the processes of science, not merely science as product. For science majors, the College is committed to fostering a professionally engaged teaching faculty, providing the sophisticated equipment and facilities necessary for contemporary science, and providing a student-faculty learning environment that lays the foundation for professional scientific careers.

strategic recommendations:

A learning community in which science plays a central role requires the implementation of the following specific recommendations:

- build and equip science facilities that will provide the best possible learning environment for majors and nonmajors alike
- provide planning and fiscal processes to ensure systematic renewal and replacement for scientific equipment, instrumentation, computing facilities, library resources and the like
- find ways to translate the excitement of science to the entire community, through innovative teaching and related activities, and enhance interdisciplinary links between the sciences and other fields
- support ongoing faculty research and collaborative student-faculty research
- ensure that science faculty members have ample opportunities to stay active in fields that change with great rapidity, especially through collaborative work with faculty at other colleges and universities
- seek ways to integrate science, its faculty and students more effectively into the overall life of the College
- enhance effective ways to attract potential science students to the College.



science

11

Beach, California.

- RC

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An Oberlin education is an education in *global awareness and engagement*.

Oberlin's international mission is to prepare an internationally diverse student body for lives and careers that embrace global awareness and engagement. Oberlin already offers a vast array of courses with international content and relevance.

strategic recommendations:

We need to build upon our already considerable curricular and faculty strengths and our existing relationships around the world, particularly our distinctive ties with Asia, by:

- developing a coherent curricular structure for the study of the global context of our lives, including exploration of historical global influences and their connections to contemporary life and culture
- enhancing language study opportunities to encourage and broaden students' interest in and access to other cultures
- enhancing the international knowledge and experience of the faculty in a broad and general way and building a faculty that includes more scholars whose work and/or personal backgrounds involve an international dimension
- increasing the proportion of international students at Oberlin and providing support for and appreciation of them in a more comprehensive way
- creating coherent and equitable study abroad policies and expanding opportunities for study and other experiences outside the United States
- developing a spirit of cooperation and a pattern of coordination across the various departments, programs and offices involved in international activities.



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An Oberlin education is an education that takes place in relationship to others in a supportive and vibrant *residential community*.



Oberlin must continue to be a residential college. To affirm this is not an empty gesture. In today's world of higher education, some commentators suggest that the existence of residential colleges is superfluous and in jeopardy, and that undergraduate education will give way to virtual campuses and distance learning. Oberlin recognizes the residential college as an essential learning community. Much student learning takes place within our residence and dining halls, cooperatives, program houses, student union, and other spaces on and off campus. The residential college setting will continue to provide unique opportunities for personal interaction and for building relationships that give a quality to teaching and learning that is to be prized in its own right.

We recognize our need to strengthen community among students, staff, and faculty on our campus, and to improve the quality of student residential life. Students need more and better spaces for informal interaction with each other and with faculty; faculty and staff need more opportunities to interact informally with one another and to become acquainted with one another across the boundaries of departments and divisions.

strategic recommendations:

To enhance the quality of life and learning in our residential campus and to build a strong sense of community, Oberlin must:

- create a centrally located campus center that will enhance, strengthen and celebrate our diverse social, artistic, and intellectual life together
- create and implement a long-range plan to continuously and incrementally upgrade and renovate our residence and dining halls to enhance their potential to serve as learning communities, to enhance their potential for creating community, and to create attractive, accessible and functional spaces that meet the needs of our students today
- recognize the potential of our program houses to foster strong bonds among groups of students who choose to live together to explore specific cultural traditions, languages, and academic fields
- encourage and support efforts of students from different backgrounds to live together
- reinvigorate the faculty associate program
- build a strong intramural sports program.

residential

community

13

Beach, California.

— RC

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An Oberlin education fosters a learning community of students, faculty, and staff beyond the classroom, in *co-curricular activities* and in residential and community spaces.

The co-curricular experience is a valuable and distinctive part of an Oberlin education. Co-curricular activities and spaces encourage informal interaction among all members of the community and often involve practical applications of academic work, both through student initiatives and collaborative projects with students, faculty, and staff. These connections should be strengthened and encouraged.

strategic recommendations:

The co-curricular learning community should be strengthened by:

- understanding and supporting the distinctive ways in which Oberlin student associational life and leadership center around student-initiated and student-run organizations, and the ways in which student organizations can help build community
- linking student co-curricular activities, commitments, and initiatives with the formal curriculum and involving faculty and staff more closely with student organizations
- strengthening the role of students in Oberlin's residential and academic governance systems.

CO-CURRICULAR



14

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An Oberlin education educates the whole person and fosters lifelong *physical and mental well-being*.



Oberlin College values the needs of all members of the community for physical as well as intellectual and emotional development and well-being. Physical education, athletics and sports contribute significantly to the building of a healthy and diverse community, and the wellness of the individuals in it. A renewed commitment to the importance of sports, broadly defined, will contribute substantially to the health and vitality of this community.

Oberlin values the contribution of sports to the enhancement of life skills such as tolerance for difference, self-discipline, the celebration of collective achievement, and collaboration. It also affirms its respect for the synergy created by a healthy body and an engaged intellect, and the value of learning lifelong habits of wellness.

strategic recommendations:

To promote the goals of health and wellness and to enhance our efforts at community building, Oberlin should seek to enhance community participation in sports, physical education, and athletics by coordinating a comprehensive program with multiple opportunities and entry points appropriate for all members of the campus community. These entry points should include:

- a varsity athletics program sensitive to the needs of both male and female athletes that nourishes excellence, values diversity, and appreciates the role that athletics play in fostering interpersonal skills, self-esteem, and respect for others
- a program of club sports that extends the values of the intramural program to serious athletes who value participation both in play and in the organization and planning of athletics
- a diverse and vibrant intramural program that promotes team building, teamwork, goal setting, stress management, cooperation, and responsibility
- a wellness program that recognizes the needs of students, faculty and staff, with a curricular component appropriate for students with a serious interest in issues related to health education and the education of the body.

An Oberlin education is an education for engaged citizenship and a lifelong commitment to social responsibility.

Oberlin must embrace its historic commitment to social engagement, cultivating in all members of the community the capacity for moral judgment and the ability to respond to the present and future demands of society. We must empower students to find in service to the community — on campus and beyond — experiences that enhance their intellectual and artistic lives, their sense of responsibility toward others, and their ability to build with others a sense of common purpose.

strategic recommendations:

Oberlin must explore the most effective and creative ways to strengthen and realize our heritage of “Learning and Labor” in the twenty-first century by:

- enhancing support for participation in existing programs in which students share their artistic efforts and their academic skills and talents with communities within and beyond Oberlin
- strengthening the College partnership with local public schools, working closely with K-12 educators and finding ways to enable Oberlin students to prepare to be teachers themselves
- supporting and connecting student service and associational initiatives with career planning, the business initiatives program, and internship and practicum opportunities
- exploring ways to build upon the success of the Center for Service and Learning to encourage faculty and staff to join students in broad-based participation in meaningful service to the community; expanding options for internships, work opportunities and community service placements
- expanding opportunities for intellectually rigorous service learning experiences linked to academic course work; providing support, encouragement, and reward for faculty development in this area
- cultivating stronger, more extensive ties with Oberlin’s alumni, whose experiences as engaged citizens offer models for students, possibilities for internship and practicum placements, and invaluable knowledge, expertise and perspectives on the state of society and its needs.



The individual planning team reports are available on Oberlin Online, the College’s web site:

www.oberlin.edu/~wwwcom/planning/teamreports.html

responsibility

16

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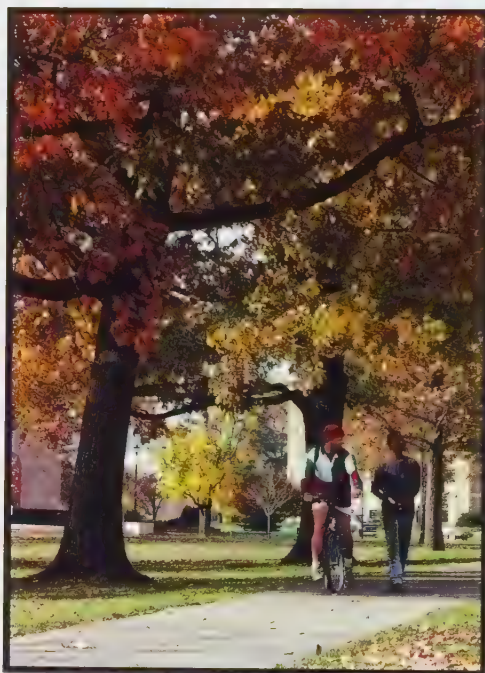
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153 W. Lorain St.
Oberlin, OH 44074



Beach, California.

- RC

1991. Lois has been designing educational math software for 16 years. Address: 6513 Nordic Dr.,

her academic career as professor of Russian literature at Princeton, while producing a steady stream of

scholarly works. Her most recent book, *Andrei Bitov: The Ecology of Inspiration*, was published by Cambridge University Press, and is the first book in any language about the contemporary Russian writer. Ellen also writes fiction, poetry, and essays, and is currently writing a book on contemporary Russian cinema. Address: 11 Riverside Drive, Apt. 11 PW, New York, N.Y. 10023. ▼ In February **Tom Pellaton** was named rector of the Anglican Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Munich, Germany. Since his ordination in December 1991, Tom had been curate and pastoral assistant at St. Michael's Church in New York City. He was involved with the Industrial Areas Foundation for Westsiders. Together, a collective of churches, synagogues, and block and civic associations instrumental in improving the quality of life on Manhattan's West Side. He helped found Episcopal Charities, an organization that raises funds for large-scale outreach programs through the Diocese of New York. Address: The Church of the Ascension, Seybothstrasse 4, D-81545 Munich, Germany. Phone: 011-49-89-648185. Fax: 011-49-89-644428. ▼ **Fred Silverman** and **Peter Miller**, former Oberlin housemates (and editors of *Focus Magazine*), have teamed up professionally. They are the principals in a two-year partnership between Apple Computer and Community Technology Centers Network (CTCNet), to promote the development of community-based computer centers in low-income communities. The goal of the project is to provide computer equipment to CTCNet members around the U.S., offering local residents low-cost or free access to technology. Fred, who lives in San Francisco, heads up Apple's Worldwide Community Affairs department; Peter, who lives in Brookline, Mass., is network coordinator for CTCNet. "Knowing someone for over 30 years is a real value in these kinds of efforts," says Peter. Fred says, "Knowing someone



Silverman



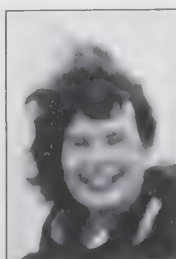
Miller

for over 30 years can make these kinds of efforts very complicated." Fred's address: 2 Ord Court, San Francisco, CA 94114. E-mail: fred.s@ix.netcom.com

1968 Sandford Lyne's creative-writing workshops for students and teachers continue to grow, he says, and he regularly presents workshops across the country for the Kennedy Center's educational programs. He is working on a six-year project to introduce his approach to creative writing in the Lawrence, Kansas, schools. Funded by the Mercantile Bank of Lawrence, the program was voted Outstanding Kansas School-Business Partnership in 1995. Sandy says that he and his wife, Patricia, have separated. Address: 1520 N. Longfellow St. #4, Arlington, VA 22205. Phone: (703) 534-9538.

1969 Rosanna Parmeter Hansen has been named publisher of Joshua Morris Publishing, where she directs the Reader's Digest U.S. children's trade books publishing program. Reader's Digest Young Families, and Wishing Well, two imprints Rosanna oversees, will publish more than 100 books for toddlers through young adults in 1997. Rosanna has headed her own consulting firm in publishing, was vice president and publisher at Troll Associates, editor-in-chief at Golden Books for Children, and worked for Macmillan Publishing Company. She holds a master's degree in English literature from Johns Hopkins University. Address: 149 Crestwood Ave., Tuckahoe, NY 10707. ▼ **Anne Wickham** works at the Department of Energy's Ohio Field Office in Miamisburg, Ohio. She returned to Oberlin for the 1996 graduation of Walt Wyman, son of Sarah Matheson Wyman, and Walt Wyman, Sr., both '68. Sarah was Anne's college roommate. Anne says she and Sarah "hooked up by e-mail. Pretty nifty!" E-mail address: MttAnne@aol.com

1970 Joan G. Anderson, Oberlin's graphic designer and photographer from 1979-1985, moved to Massachusetts in 1986. She freelanced advertising promotions and photography there for two years before enrolling in a



Anderson

doctoral program in social justice education at UMass at Amherst. Joan worked at the university as an assistant residence hall director, and, later, as a residence hall director for Hampshire College while doing research for her thesis, and, for the last 10 years, taught ballroom and aerobic dancing in community and college settings. She earned the EdD last February. Her son, Pete, a screenwriter, lives in New York City, and her son, Dave, is a musician/composer in Northampton, Mass. Joan says she is about to send off her first murder mystery for "hopeful publication." Address: 3300 Darby Rd., #7316, Haverford, PA 19041. Phone: (610) 896-4686. E-mail: griswold@dvoll.com ▼ **Wendy Carlton** is a manager of a community health center specializing in crisis services, located in Bellevue, a suburb of Seattle. She has two children, John, 18, and Sara, 15. E-mail: wendy@highline.org ▼ **Julia Tanner,** assistant principal cellist for the Nashville Symphony since 1978, is a cello instructor for Belmont University's School of Music. She performed a solo recital November



Tanner

18, 1996, in the Belmont Faculty Recital Series, and her performance was picked up by the local public television station for its "Recital Hall" series, scheduled for viewing in Nashville this summer. The TV taping also included performances of Belmont's Camerata Musicale Series Concerts by the resident faculty chamber group for which Julia is principal cellist. She can also be heard on many commercial albums as a member of the Nashville String Machine. Julia's daughters, Rachel and Emily, are now 16 and 18.

1971 William Jordan summarizes what he has been doing this way: "Book in January, married in July, moved in November." Address: 17015 W. 16th Place, Golden, CO 80401. Phone: (303) 216-2705. E-mail: willjordan@aol.com ▼ **Lolo Beckwith Pike** has just published *The Beckwith-Berkowitz Family History, Stories of Life from 1886-1998 As Told By Ourselves*. Based on oral accounts, the book covers the migration of the Beckwith family from Russia to Boston in the 1880s, and the building of life in the new world: first-hand

recollections of family life during the moves from Lithuania to the North End and Roxbury; of businesses and careers; of local education and politics; and of economics and religion, with photographs from seven generations. Both an in-depth portrait of a family and a document of the immigrant experience, the book won second place in the National Genealogical Society Awards Competition for 1997. Lolo lives near Charleston with her husband, Stephen Pike. She says she was accepted at the University of South Carolina Law School last year, but decided to put classes off until she is "much older." Her next project: collecting the writings and notes of Betty Lind, her Oberlin dance professor and mentor, for the College archives. Address: 512 Ruddy Turnstone, Kiawah Island, SC 29455. E-mail: spike9@ix.netcom.com

1972 Robert Weirich performed Mozart's Piano Concerto in E-Flat K. 271 with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra in January. Chamber Music America and ASCAP recently presented Robert with the Adventurous Programming Award for his work as artistic director of the Skaneateles Festival. Two of his compositions were performed this spring: *Tea at the Cuddleback Place* at the Eastman School of Music, and *A Flurry of Fanfares* at Ithaca College and in New York City. Address: 2612 West Lake Road, Skaneateles, NY 13152. Phone: (315) 685-5240.

1973 This spring, Edward Green, a teacher at the Manhattan School of Music and at the Aesthetic Realism Foundation, had the world premiere of his Piano Concertino performed in New York, and also the European premiere of his Brass Quintet, which won the Zoltan Kodaly Award in 1996. To complete "an exciting season," he says, his Chamber Symphony was performed at the San Francisco Conservatory and his *The Heavens Are Telling* at Jersey City State College. Ed has composed a score for 24 recorders for a ballet, *Through the Seasons with Persephone*, which will be published soon. On a different front, he wrote an article about the recent series of church burnings, "Contempt: The Cause of Racism," which has appeared in nearly 40 journals within the last few months. Address: 25 E. 10th St. 7C, New York, NY 10003. Phone: (212) 529-7745. ▼ **Mike**

1973 CONTINUED

Kearns has been named vice president of marketing for the Rush System for Health, a health-care system including nine hospitals, Rush University, and several other Rush institutions in the Chicago area. For more than six years he served as vice president of marketing at Rush North Shore Medical Center in Skokie, Ill. Phone: (312) 942-5694, Fax: (312) 942-5831. ▼ Playwright **Richard Orloff's** *Damaged Goods* won the 1994 Topeka Civic Theater New Play Contest, the 1994 Playwrights First Plays-in-Process Award, and the 1995 Festival of Firsts in Carmel, Calif. In February and March 1997 the four-character romantic comedy was performed by the American Stage Company on the campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University. When the play was first produced at the Flat Rock Playhouse in North Carolina, the *Charlotte Observer* called it "a comedy with a little meat on its bones—a surprisingly thoughtful comedy about the difficulties of romance in the 1990s." ▼ **Lois M. Loey Powell** began work in Cleveland in February as executive director of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, a national women's agency of the 1.5-million-member United Church of Christ.



The Center monitors the status of women within the denomination, and develops policies and programs to address women's concerns and to eliminate sexism inside and outside the church. Lois was pastor of the United Church in Tallahassee since 1989, and has held several other church positions in the San Francisco Bay area. She says, "It is essential that women of color, laywomen, clergywomen, lesbian and bisexual women, young women and girls, retired women, and women of diverse economic backgrounds are assured a place within the full life of the denomination." Lois has served on the church's national executive council, the general synod committee on structure, the former Advisory Board of the Coordinating Center for Women, and as coordinator of the United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns. ▼ **John Strawn** was named a fellow of the Audio Engineering Society at the society's annual meeting in Los

Angeles last December. His keynote address dealt with the effect of new technologies such as micromachining and nanotechnology on the audio and music industries. Address: John Strawn, S Systems, Inc., 15 Willow Ave., Larkspur, CA 94939. Phone: (415) 927-8856. Fax: (415) 927-2935. E-mail: ssys@netcom.com

1976 **Graylon S. Ellis-Hagler** is senior pastor of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Washington, D.C., where he has served for nearly five years. He moved there from Boston, where he founded and pastored Church of the United Community, affiliated with the United Church of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Unitarian Universalist Association. It was after his 1991 run for mayor of Boston against the incumbent, Raymond Flynn, that he was called to the 1000-member church in Washington. Graylon says that it is interesting living under the oppression of Congress and its federally appointed control board. "Some day," he says, "we will gain a semblance of self-determination, but our struggle will be long." ▼ **Jon and Anita Waxberg** recently returned from California where they visited **Mark Leonard**, conservator of paintings at the Getty Museum, in his studio in Malibu. The Waxbergs say they enjoyed their last reunion in Oberlin, and wished everyone else were there. "See you in '01!" says Jon. E-mail: jmvc98a@prodigy.com

1977 **Peter Argentine** is producing a film on the history of the White House gardens, titled *Upon These Grounds*, which will be on permanent exhibition at the White House Visitor's Center, distributed on VHS cassette to schools across the country, and shown on public television. During the recording session for the score with the President's Own United States Marine Band in Washington, D.C., Peter found two Obies: Lt. Col. Timothy W. Foley '68, director of the United States Marine Band, and Phyllis Mauney '75, who plays harp with the band. ▼ **Michael Maguire**, a tenor and accomplished actor, performed with two other singers in *Bravo Broadway!*, an evening of show tunes, in conjunction with the Madison [Wisc.] Symphony Orchestra at the Oscar Mayer Theatre's Madison Civic Center.

According to one reviewer, "The group received an enthusiastic standing ovation . . . from the audience of about 2500 to 3000 people on a bitterly cold, below-zero night." Michael also performed the role of Enjoiras in the original Broadway production of *Les Miserables*, for which he won a Tony Award, a Drama Desk Award, and a Theatre World Award. He starred in the New York City Opera production of *A Little Night Music*, and has performed throughout the United States in *Carousel*, *Brigadoon*, *The Desert Song*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *110 in the Shade*, *Showboat*, and other musicals. ▼

Gabrielle Shubert married Jesse Walker, a freelance video editor and producer, January 11, 1997. Gabrielle is in her fifth year as director of the New York Transit Museum, and last year was selected as a participant in the Getty Museum Management Institute. Address: 315 Riverside Dr. #10 C, New York, NY 10025. ▼

Gene Wang and Alice Bade Wang '78, have been married for 16 years, and live near Albany, N.Y. They have two children, Matthew, 11, who was born in Korea and came to be with his parents when he was 7 months old, and Michelle, born two years later. Alice practices optometry part-time, and teaches abstinence classes to area junior and senior high-school students. She says she hopes there will be less pain in the future from unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, and emotional hurt. Gene is a medical laboratory consultant with the State of New York. Phone: (518) 785-7263.

1978 **Randy Dreyfuss** and his wife, Pamela, announce the birth of their son, Raphael Isaac Dreyfuss, born November 16, 1996. ▼ **Craig H. Shopneck**, vice president and manager of KeyCorp's NonProfit Asset Services Group, has been elected president of the board of trustees of the Donors Forum of Ohio. The Forum, located in Columbus, is a state-wide association of private foundations and corporate-giving programs, awarding approximately \$200 million in grants each year for educational programs. Craig has more than 10 years of experience in the not-for-profit sector, is a graduate of the University of Toledo College of Law, a licensed attorney, and a certified public accountant in Ohio. He is also a trustee of the Thomas H. White

Foundation and the Kenneth Scott Charitable Trust.

1979 Tenor Colenton

Freeman has completed a year-long engagement as Ubaldo Piangi in the Hamburg production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*. Colenton spent two months in Italy singing engagements in Pesaro, Urbina, Florence, Bologna, and Rome. He has recently given recitals in Berlin, Magdeburg, Brandenburg, and Dresden. In April 1996 he was soloist with the Winterthur Orchestra in Switzerland, and went from there directly to Puerto Rico to sing as tenor soloist in Mahler's Symphony #8 with the Puerto Rico Symphony. He has conducted master classes at the University of Southwestern Louisiana and Louisiana Tech University. He is scheduled for a solo performance with the Stockton Symphony in California under the baton of Oberlin graduate Peter Jaffe '78; the title role on Schubert's opera *Fierrabras* with the Dortmund Opera, and a recital tour throughout Germany. ▼ **Michael Green** says he has continued to pursue research interests that began at Oberlin, and was recently promoted to professor in the department of psychiatry at UCLA. E-mail: mgreen@ucla.edu ▼



Freeman

▼ **Mark Gross** and his wife, Nancy, turned their enjoyment of tandem bicycling into a family business. In 1985 they developed Quick Messenger Service, a two-wheeled delivery service operating in Washington, D.C., and, since last June, in Baltimore, Md. The Grosses pull their son, Mitchell, born October 26, 1994, in a trailer behind their bike. The couple belongs to the Washington Hash House Harriettes and Harriers, a running/social club. Mark says their local chapter has transformed itself from a bawdy, rugby club-like atmosphere to one which now sports six baby joggers. E-mail: mark@qms-dc.com ▼ **Ellen Orleans** recently published her fourth book of lesbian/gay humor (see *Issued*). Her third book, *The Butches of Madison County*, won the 1996 national Lambda Literary Award for best lesbian and gay humor. Ellen's first play, about 10 lesbians at a Passover Seder—*God, Guilt and Gefilte Fish*—was performed

Alumni in Service to Oberlin College (ASOC)

Making Cliches Count in Playwriting; Celebrating World-Class Compositions

by Midge Wood Brittingham '60

Oberlin's history and anthropology departments teamed up to bring **Josh Piker** '89 back to campus February 17. Josh majored in both disciplines at Oberlin, going on to earn the MA and PhD in history at Cornell. He returned to Oberlin to speak on the subject of his dissertation, "Peculiarly Connected: Interdisciplinary Investigations of an 18th-Century Native American Community," a study of the Creek town of Oakfuskee.



Piker

For her Winter Term project Oberlin senior **Heather West** organized a February 28 speakers series—Deaf Culture, Deaf Identity, and Oppression of the Deaf Community—for which **Brooksley Williams** '93 returned to campus. Brooksley interpreted for Arlene Kelly, Gallaudet University professor of deaf studies, whose presentation was entitled "What Is Deaf Studies All About?" Both Brooksley and Heather became interested in deaf studies after spending a semester at Gallaudet on an exchange program, Heather in spring 1996 and Brooksley in 1991. Brooksley later was a student teacher at Connecticut's American School for the Deaf, and cotaught, with a deaf student from Gallaudet, an EXCO course on sign language and the deaf community. She now interprets classes at the University of Maryland and is a freelance interpreter in the Washington, D.C., area.

"Don't censor yourself.

Share with your colleagues. Be embarrassed," were some of the instructions **Seth Bauer** '93 gave students enrolled in his April 16 playwriting master class. The assignment: write the worst play possible in no more than an hour. "Every cliché has a home in this play," said Seth, who further directed the budding writers to "have fun. Write nakedly. Take risks. Be bloody, bold, and resolute." Seth has seven plays and three screenplays to his credit; his latest play, *The Burglar of Suburbia*, premiered last summer in Austin, Texas, and another, *The Tip*, received a Drama League New Visions New Works grant, which includes an off-Broadway production, scheduled for this fall at St. Clement's Church. *The Tip* was, in May, a finalist for development by the 1997 Sundance Theater Institute. An Oberlin theater major, Seth earned an MFA in playwriting at the University of Texas at Austin, where he thrice received the Texas Center for Writers' prestigious James A. Michener Fellowship. Seth is arts outreach supervisor for the Texas Young Playwrights' Festival, but he plans a fall move to New York City, where he'll supervise production of *The Tip*.



Smith and Paxton

Twenty-five years ago **Nancy Stark Smith** '74 joined Steve Paxton, Curt Siddall, and others for a series of dance performances directed by Paxton at New York's John Weber Gallery, a collaboration that launched the dance form now known as Contact Improvisation, or, simply, Contact. Contact focuses on communication through points of physical contact, says Nancy, and facilitates a conscious, engaged dancing with others, using such skills as rolling, sharing balance, giving and

receiving weight, and falling softly. Cofounder and coeditor of *Contact Quarterly*, Nancy has played a prominent role in developing and teaching Contact. She and Paxton met during a '70s Winter Term experimental choreography residency by the dance collective the Grand Union. Both returned this spring to Oberlin as guest artists in the dance program's year-long celebration of Contact's 25th anniversary, which culminated in an international conference held on campus June 3–15, produced by Contact Collaborations, Inc.

Barbara Rosner Seaman '56 and **Sonja Herbert** '91 were back in Oberlin April 26 to present sessions at the Women's Health Conference, sponsored by Oberlin Students United for Reproductive Freedom (OSURF).

Barbara, cofounder of the National Women's Network, was uniquely qualified to lead the session entitled "Historical Politics of Contraception and Informed Consent." A central figure in the women's health movement, Barbara wrote the 1969 classic, *The Doctor's Case*



Herbert

Against the Pill, which has been re-released in a 25th anniversary edition. Herbert is enrolled in Johns Hopkins's School of Public Health and works as a public-policy associate for the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States. She spoke about women's health activism after graduation.

MIDGE WOOD BRITTINGHAM is executive director of the Oberlin College Alumni Association.

at the University of Colorado, Boulder, in March. Ellen says in January 1996 she spent a day in Boulder with her old Talcott roommate, **Rebekah Bloyd**, who teaches in San Francisco. Ellen's e-mail: EOrleans@aol.com ▼ **Steve Silberman** says his book, *Skeleton Key: A Dictionary for Deadheads*, "sailed out of Doubleday and into the hearts of many Deadheads—and then, the world it described blew away." A few days before Jerry Garcia died, Steve accepted a job at Hotwired, the first major commercial Web site. He is now senior culture correspondent

for Wired News (www.wired.com) and has a biweekly column on Packet (www.packet.com). Steve says, "It is with sadness that I inform my fellow Obies that my first love, Ed Power '81, died suddenly of liver disease last year. The good news is that I'm in the happiest relationship of my life with a guy I hope to marry some day." E-mail: digaman@hotmail.com ▼

Tom Varner says that, after living 17 years in the same place, he has finally moved to a new address, although he remains in New York City. He is busy as a jazz French hornist and composer, with seven CDs to his

credit. His newest, *Martian Heartache*, will be out on the Soul Note label sometime in July. Address: 70 LaSalle St. #15-E, New York, NY 10027. Phone: (212) 666-3533.



Varner

1980 **Timothy Brown** and Laurell Cox Brown '79, and their son, Spencer, announce the birth of Allyson Sivey Brown, born November 26, 1996. "The family is now

complete, and we're still having fun in warm Santa Maria, California," they say. "The cold, cloudy winter days of Oberlin are not missed." E-mail: hopper@silcom.com ▼ **Monica Green** moved from Washington, D.C., to western Massachusetts in 1995 with her husband, Rich West, and their two children, Owen, 4, and Emma, 2. Monica is doing development work for a fair-housing organization serving central and western Massachusetts. Address: 151 Crescent St., Northampton, MA 01060. Phone: (413) 585-1074. E-mail: monica.green@the-spa.com ▼

If You Don't Get Invited, Just Rent Your Own Hall

How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" the bewildered tourist asks the passing New Yorker. "Practice!" is the jaded reply.

David Ballon '79 did practice, and finally made it to center stage of the hallowed hall last February. His clarinet performance before a packed house at Carnegie Hall was rewarded with a standing ovation for the do-it-yourself concert.

David hired Weill Recital Hall—the chamber-music space at Carnegie—at his own expense, bought the mailing list, designed the ad, stuck on the postage labels himself, and sent the promotional mailer out to 4000 people. He hired a pianist and a string quartet, paying them for a full week of rehearsals before the performance of the program itself—Mozart, Brahms, Martino, and Penderecki—all out of his own pocket. His one-night stand set him back \$10,000, but David cheerfully acknowledges that, for him, it was money well spent.

David has worked for the last 11 years with Institutional Investor, Inc., a multimillion dollar firm that develops corporate-strategy and money-management plans for bankers, financiers, and pension-fund directors, and is currently director of the Institute, a conference division of the firm.

Yet some unfulfilled part of the 43 year old still hankered for the career in music he had once assumed would be his natural path. An Oberlin double-degree student, he majored in clarinet and economics; played the Neilson Clarinet Concerts with the Oberlin Orchestra; won the conservatory's concerto competition; and made it into the highly



competitive Tanglewood scholarship program two consecutive summers, playing under Leonard Bernstein, Gunther Schuller, and Luciano Berio.

That's when he began making the endless rounds for a chair with a reputable orchestra. Discouraged after some tantalizing near-misses, he reluctantly decided to put away his clarinet and move on to law school.

Before deciding to irrevocably change his professional course, he was impelled to give music just one more try. Maybe, if he practiced enough, he could win the prestigious Naumberg competition, and perhaps then easily land a chair with a really good orchestra. David quit his day job as a paralegal, and practiced relentlessly night and day for several months.

Did he win the Naumberg? No.

Traumatized, and close to what he calls "borderline nonfunctional," he didn't stir from his Upper West Side Manhattan apartment for weeks, morosely playing computer chess 14 hours a day.

A friend at Institutional Investor Institute phoned to offer him a weekend job helping with some computer-software problems in the accounting department. Within a year, David was a full-time employee.

Then, in 1993, without preamble, he experienced an urgent need to play again, and pulled his instrument out of the case where it had rested, undisturbed, for eight years. Doggedly practicing several hours each night and throughout every weekend for the next four years, he knew he was finally ready to be heard.

"Hello, Carnegie Hall?"

Would he do it again? In a heartbeat.

—MC

1980 CONTINUED

Chris Orenge is senior project manager for the Salem Company, an international firm of training consultants. Chris, who is in charge of the firm's Latin-American clients, recently completed a year-long assignment in Monterrey, Mexico. His work involves developing appropriate training materials, including written manuals, video, and multimedia training for front-line workers, primarily in the textile industry. Address: 11025 Harrowfield Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226.

1981 Steven J. Cahn

presented a paper at the 1996 national meeting of the American Musicological Society in Baltimore. The topic, "Schoenberg's Historicism in Historical Context," was based on his PhD dissertation, which explores how aesthetics and the philosophy of history become interwoven themes in Schoenberg's work. Steven says his interest in Schoenberg studies began in 1980 at the first Winter Term Schoenberg Seminar at the Schoenberg Institute in Mödling

bei Wien, Austria. ▼ **Lisa Spahr**, after spending the last 10 years in Maine, has left for "warmer climes," where she continues to work as a geologist investigating hazardous waste sites. Address: 5855 N. Kolb Rd., Apt. 10207, Tucson, AZ 85750. Phone: (520) 792-3573. E-mail: mispahr@worldnet.att.net ▼ **Henry Teitelbaum** works as a correspondent for the Dow Jones News Service in Paris. He won the Dow Jones Newswire Award for Distinguished Realtime Journalism in 1996.

1982

Fifth-grade teacher **Katherine H. K. Bauer** of Rockport, Maine, traveled with her family to Los Angeles in June to attend a three-day educator's conference and to receive the 1996 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award of \$25,000. Katie was honored for her dedicated efforts at Rockport Elementary School "to breathe new life into math, science, and technology, as well as her work in curriculum development, school management, and multi-age

teaching," according to the foundation. She has been in high demand throughout New England to teach teachers to use LINX, an innovative program in which pupils use virtually every academic discipline in problem-solving. Katie also helps her students to know the difference between opinion and proof, and depends more upon books, magazine articles, and scientific journals than textbooks to help her pupils learn how to do research. ▼ In June, **Thomas Hecht** began his duties as head of keyboard studies and artist-in-residence at the Victoria University in Wellington, New



Hecht

Zealand. He was professor of piano and artist-in-residence at the Cleveland Institute of Music, a position he has held since 1989. Several of his students won top prizes in national and state level competitions. Thomas' recently released CD featuring music for pianos and winds with principal members of the New York

Philharmonic has been well received, and another CD, with partner Sandra Shapiro (of Hecht & Shapiro) was scheduled to be recorded on the Briosio label in late May. Address: School of Music, Victoria University, PO Box 600, Wellington, NZ. ▼ **Dan Kaplan** says "saludos" to his Oberlin friends. He lives in Seville, Spain. E-mail: jumblie@goriz.senonet.es ▼ **Lee Koonce** began working at the Chicago Symphony last August as director of community relations. He says the job provides a unique opportunity to combine his music background with his eight years of marketing and communications experience at Anderson Consulting, and his African-American and Hispanic roots qualify him for outreach into those markets. "It's the type of job I've dreamed about, and I'm having a blast so far," he says. E-mail: koonce@chicagosymph.org ▼ **Robert Polakoff** married Elizabeth Kiyasu September 8, 1996, on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Rob and Elizabeth are graduates of Emory University School of Medicine, and Rob is in his third year of residency,

while Elizabeth is a fellow in geriatric medicine. ▼ **Ken Pope** says that because he and his wife, Theresa, have four cats, two dogs, and one set of twins, 2-and-a-half-year-olds Connor and Ramsay, they figured they do everything in litters—so, they had yet another set of twins, Hunter McKenzie Pope and Molly McLaren Pope, born May 8, 1996. The parents have doubled their living space, but invite only guests who know how to change diapers. E-mail: HornRX@aol.com

1983 Rachel Boughton says she has put her artistic aspirations on hold for the moment while she and her husband, Richard, raise Rosie, who is nearly 3, prepare for a second baby on the way, and look after Astro and Angie, their two dogs, “and the occasional stray.” Address: 5221 17th NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Phone: (206) 525-4852. E-mail: rsnyder@halcyon.com ▼ **Veronika Herman** and Todd Bromberg ’85 announce the birth of their second daughter, Julia Rose, on October 27, 1996. Isabelle, going on 3, is a proud big sister, but her parents are still suffering from sleep deprivation. “All words of parent wisdom are welcome,” says Veronika. Address: 320 W. 105th St, New York, NY 10025. E-mail: VeronikaHe@aol.com

▼ **Joyce Luhrs**, business owner and community activist, has been named to the 1997-1998 *Who's Who in the East*. She is founder and president of Leonia, New Jersey-based Luhrs and Associates, a public relations, marketing, and management consulting services firm. Aside from working with businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout the country, Joyce serves on the selection committee of the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund, is on the board of directors of the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners, and is the recipient of numerous recognitions and fellowships. She earned a master's degree at Columbia, and holds a legislative fellowship on public policy from SUNY. ▼ **Maureen Mayer** has sold a story to the children's literary magazine, *Cricket*. ▼ **Juliette Rogers** says 1996 was a big year for her: she received tenure and was promoted to associate professor of French and women's studies at the University of New Hampshire; then spent last fall's semester on a Camargo Foundation fellowship in Cassis, France, working on a book about French women



Luhrs

writers from the Belle Epoque. This spring she plans to finish the book in Columbus, Ohio, while on sabbatical. Through the end of August, her address: 815 High St., Apt. 50, Columbus, OH 43215. E-mail: jmrogers@christa.unh.edu ▼ **Alice M. Smith-Gicklhorn** and her husband, Gerhard, say they are enchanted with their baby boy, Max Leonard Gicklhorn, born May 28, 1996, in Munich, Germany, and that they are raising him biculturally. Address: Zweibrückenstr., 8/A2, D-80331, München, Germany. Phone: 49-89-227175. E-mail: alice@verona.phys.chemie.tu-muenchen.de ▼ **Julie Stern** and her husband, Jon Olbum, announce the birth of their second child, Jeremy Zvi Olbum, December 25, 1996, and say they are pleased that his sister, Orly Sonia, 3, is taking to the new addition “rather well.” When Jeremy was five weeks old, the family moved to a new home “just five minutes from the old one—but packing was still required,” says Julie. Address: 1115 Wightman St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217. E-mail: julierose@juno.com ▼ **Jonathan Sturm** is in his second year of marriage to Louisa. They renovated an older home together last year, and say they “love living in our refinished surroundings.” Jonathan remains head of strings at Drake University,

where he was recently promoted to associate professor with tenure, and concertmaster of the Des Moines Symphony. Address: 4311 Kingman Blvd., Des Moines, IA 50311.

1984 Greg Allen says he doesn't believe that working toward the audience's suspension of disbelief is important in acting, and has built a theatrical career on his conviction. Artistic and managing director of Neo-Futurists, a collective of about a half-dozen performers at any one time, Greg directs a long-running (eight years) Chicago late-night show, “Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind.” (The title comes from a case study of an autistic child who would go about the house removing light bulbs and muttering the line.) The play is listed in the entertainment section of *Chicago* magazine as “Sixty plays (and we use the term lightly) in 60 minutes. Big with Generation Xers.” K, Greg's latest production, is based on Kafka's *The Trial* and is, according to a review in the *Chicago Tribune*, “often maddeningly funny.” Greg says the success of his shows stems from the essence of Neo-Futurism—the reverse of Method acting. “The actors are not the characters, but, rather, the characters *are* the actors, without embellishment.” ▼ **Marcy Barker**

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for winter issue (December mailing)
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for spring issue (March mailing)
March 1
for summer issue (June mailing)
June 1
for fall issue (September mailing)

1984 CONTINUED

and her husband, Michael Morrill, announce the birth of their son on October 22, 1996, Andrew Michael Barker-Morrill. Address: 166 Middletown Rd., Boxford, MA 01921. Phone: (617) 557-8030. E-mail: mlbmbpm@aol.com ▼ **Tracy Chevalier's** first novel, *The Virgin Blue*, was published in January 1997 by Penguin UK (See *Issued*). The book was chosen, along with five other first novels, by the British bookseller/stationer W.H. Smith for their Fresh Talent promotion—"great attention for a first effort." Sadly, Tracy says, no U.S. publisher has yet been found; early responses were that the book is not "high concept" enough for the U.S. market. Her e-mail: jid@dial.pipex.com ▼ **Kraft Foods** has promoted **Michael Friere** to the position of area human

resources manager for two of Kraft's New York State branches. Mike and his wife, Lynette, relocated to Oneonta last September. Address: 4 College Park Dr., Oneonta, NY 13820-1265. Phone: (607) 432-6265.

▼ **Richard Jankura, Jr.** says that he and his wife, Janet, are expecting their first child after 10 years of marriage. "While we do not know the sex of the baby, if the outcome is similar to that of most of my Oberlin classmates—most of whom played football at Oberlin—it is destined to be a boy," says Richard. Address: 2452 Kingston Rd., Cleveland Hts., Ohio. E-mail: dukejankura@juno.com ▼ **Scott K. Page** has been working as a juvenile parole officer for the State of Washington. On October 29, 1995, he married Kirston Annette Mueller with eight Obies attending the wedding including his best man,

Michael Weaver. Among the guests were **Robert Clapp, Jenna Glasscock, Jane Kaplan, Paul Markgraf, Michael Rosotto**, Lucie Isenhardt '86, and Joanne Butterfield Page '50. Scott says he and Kirston had a baby girl, Raina Marie Page, October 12, 1996, and that he is "happy, happy, happy!!!" ▼ **Mona Reinhardt** is back in school, working towards an MBA at Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management. She plans to concentrate in marketing and accounting, and welcomes "gratuitous career advice." Her building is right next door to the John Frederick Oberlin Divinity Quadrangle—which, she says, must be an omen. Mona is beginning to like Nashville and the South. "A group of us rented a Winnebago over New Year's and made a pilgrimage to Memphis to do

Graceland and barbecue," she says. Address: 313 Erin Lane, Nashville, TN 37221. Phone: (615) 353-5645. E-mail: mona.r.reinhardt@vanderbilt.edu ▼ **Karyn Lowinger Steckler** and her husband, Steven, announce the birth of their son, Jeffrey Marc, January 21, 1997. His parents say their daughter, Michelle, 3, is adjusting nicely to the new addition. ▼ **Eliza Wells** and Seth Moran '88 were married June 29, 1996, in Leavenworth, Washington. Obies who shared the festivities were **Peter Carlson; Mylo Fryling; Susan Johnson; Carol Levine**; Anna Adler and Belinda Berg, both '89; Eric Boyle, Eric Engle, Janice Fornier, and Jeanne Quinn, all '88; Jeremy Grob '87; Susan Weinstein '85; and Lori Simon Rosolowski '83. Elisa is still working at the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health on

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international reproductive health projects. Seth is finishing a PhD in geophysics at the University of Washington, and trying to decide what to do next. Address: 6525 10th Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98117. Phone: (206) 784-4058. E-mail: ewells@path.org and moran@geopys.washington.edu

1985 Writer/director **Nicholas Goodman** recently completed his first film, a 23-minute, 35 mm short entitled *Stigmata .44*, a cautionary tale about a boy who shoots real bullets out of his bare hand. The film won the Audience Award for Best Film at the Uppsala International Short Film Festival in Sweden, and is screening at other film festivals worldwide. The film will also be used by Mediascope, an industry watchdog group in Los Angeles that monitors violence in the media, to illustrate the dangers of guns in the hands of children. Phone: (310) 396-4668. E-mail: mentalprop@aol.com
▼ Young C. Kim recently put a formal end to his "nomadic existence" by signing the papers to a 90-year-old house. He says that his longtime flu symptoms vanished as soon as he and his wife left the escrow office, and he wakes now humming the tune to "This Old House." In February he left First Place School to become the director of the Solo Parenting Alliance's Family Homeshare program. "Life is good," says Young. Address: 1614 Winfield Ave., Bremerton, WA 98310. **▼ Dan Loschen** is playing jazz around Boston and New England, and teaching at the Rivers Music School in Wellesley, Mass., and at the Concord Community Music School in New Hampshire. He says he's shopping around his first CD, and hopes it will be released in time for New Year's, 2020. Address: 2 Brown Terr. #1R, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. Phone: (617) 524-3988. E-mail: DLosc@aol.com **▼ Amanda Martinsek**, an attorney practicing corporate litigation, has left Squire Sanders and Dempsey to join the Cleveland office of Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease. Her degree is from New York University School of Law, where she remained after graduation as a teaching assistant in civil procedure, helping to counsel and tutor first-year law students.

1986 Adam Berkin has moved on from teaching elementary school to work in publishing as

education editor at *Time for Kids*, a weekly classroom news magazine published by Time, Inc. for 4th-6th graders. Address: 99 Prospect Park West, #3A, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Phone: (212) 522-2301. E-mail: Adam_Berkin@timemagazine.com **▼ Ellen Kremer Christian** decided to take a year off and decompress—by traveling to Hong Kong, Thailand, and Austria. She also gave birth to a son, Theodore Addams; moved from South Carolina to Connecticut; put an animal to sleep; started a new job; won a lawsuit; gained and lost 30 pounds; and learned to sew. "So much for decompressing," she says. She is back working for Scholastic Network, "a fabulous site for teachers and children." Address: 26 Devon Rd., Darien, CT 06820. Phone: (203) 965-7769. E-mail: echristian@scholastic.com Web site: scholastic.com **▼ Kathleen Diane Granrose** is pursuing a PhD in Spanish literature at the University of Virginia. Address: 120 University Gardens #3, Charlottesville, VA 22903. Phone: (804) 979-8385. E-mail: kdg7e@virginia.edu **▼ Robert Holland** traveled last October to Pordenone, Italy, and Ljubljana, Slovenia, as a member of the Flower City Society Orchestra for the premiere of a new film score for the 1923 silent film, *Peter Pan*. Address: 129 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester, NY 14620. Phone: (716) 274-1365. E-mail: rhll@uhara.cc.rochester.edu **▼ Pamela Jennings** has a new address: 333 W. Charleston, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Phone: (415) 856-6916. E-mail: mindfield@earthlink.com **▼ Jeremy and Marian Fowler Millstone** '85 have lived in Davis, California, since 1990, where Marian is working on a master's thesis in exercise science, and Jeremy specializes in employment law with McDonough, Holland & Allen in Sacramento. The couple says they are ecstatic about the newest addition to their family, (which includes two dogs, Bailey and Phoebe) their son James Wyatt, born in March 1996. **▼ Elaine Schmerling** left her job after six years as Chester County (Pa.) recycling coordinator, and is taking life easier. She says she is spending more time now with 4-year-old Shira, and with husband, Warren Butt '79, "who is still working too hard." She says she's enjoying herself, becoming more involved in community life in Arden, preparing to do just a little freelancing from home, and highly recommends it to others. E-mail:

Buttling@aol.com **▼ Hilarie Sheets** and her husband, Bob Mittenthal, welcomed baby boy Owen Sheets Mittenthal October 5, 1996. "Being Owen's mom is more fun than I ever imagined," she says, but she found that going back to work as a senior editor at *Artnews* magazine was a "virtual vacation" after three months of full-time motherhood. **▼ Nancy Long '85** and **Jack Sieber** were married in Concord, Mass., July 1, 1995, and say they were happily overwhelmed by the occasion and by all the friends who joined them. Among the guests: **Jennifer Brady, John Colborn, Nina Gelman-Gans, Emily Goldman, Daphne Katranides, Pam Kulberg, Danny Mendelson, Jennifer Patterson, and Ed Trager;** Jeanne Quinn '88; Chris O'Neill, Dan Beale, Lisa Safier, all '85; and Phil Rossoni '84. Address: 42 Monument Street, West Medford, MA 02155-6716. Phone: (617) 488-3350.

1987 Dereic Dorman is preparing a dissertation proposal on polygyny within the African-American community in the African-American Studies department at Temple University. He teaches Class, Gender, and Race in the Global Village at Philadelphia College for Textiles and Sciences, and is program director of the Ronald McNair faculty-in-training program at Temple, providing research and teaching opportunities for undergraduates interested in doctoral degrees. Two years ago, Dereic and his wife helped start Ausar Auset Society Church School, an independent Afrocentric school, where he teaches geometry. He was elected national corresponding secretary of the African Heritage Studies Association, the oldest scholastic organization in the field of African-American Studies. With a fifth child on the way, Dereic was unable attend the African-American reunion at Oberlin this year, but as a former Abusua chair, he would like to hear from former Abusua members from the period 1983-1987. Address: 3713 Spring Garden St., Philadelphia, PA 19104. Phone: (215) 204-8023. E-mail: dereicdy@vm.temple.edu **▼** Sponsors contributed \$3500 to support **David Keill's** participation in the Honolulu Marathon in Hawaii last December as part of the Leukemia Society's Team in Training program. David is rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in

Pennsville, N.J. Address: 305 North Broadway, Pennsville, NJ 08070. E-mail: stgeorge@waterw.com Home page: www.accsyst.com/stgeorge/oh-ok **▼ Larry Kim** has moved to Seattle, where, he says, a thousand other people are moving every day, and where pedestrians obey traffic signals. As vice president, institutional sales, for Fidelity Investments, he says he drinks three grand lattes a day, and has the jitters by noon, but is otherwise fine. Address: 906 14th Ave. East, Seattle, WA 98112. Phone: (206) 860-6873. E-mail: larry.kim@fmr.com **▼** The frustration of dealing with Turkish bureaucrats encouraged **Caroline Smrstik** to jump at the chance to return to the "wild East." Since August 1996, Carrie has lived in Riga, Latvia, as Baltic correspondent for Deutsche Presse-Agentur, the German wire service. She says she has survived her first long and dark northern winter, and looks forward to celebrating the summer solstice. "Riga is an architectural treasure-box, and a lively, cosmopolitan city, and, for extra points, I live in the former Lenin Museum!" Address: Elisabetes 18-19, LV 1050 Riga, Latvia. E-mail: smrs@mailbox.riga.lv **▼ Sara Speicher** says she decided she needed a change of scene—preferably European—so she now works in Geneva for the World Council of Churches' Programme to Overcome Violence. Address: 1, chemin Tavernay, 1218 Grand-saconnex, Switzerland. E-mail: ses@wcc-coe.org **▼ William and Susan Vodrey** announce the birth November 5, 1996, of their son, John Jackman Vodrey, named for his grandfather.

1988 Robb Barnard drove from New York City to Damascotta, Maine, last November to sing in an Irving Berlin concert, and in December replaced an actor in a musical murder mystery in New Hampshire with just 36 hours notice. Robb got together with several Obie friends recently in Greenwich Village, and says there was much reminiscing about the passing of the Tap House and Uncle John's Pizza on Oberlin's Main Street, and nostalgic talk of past and future reunions. In the group were **Jonathan Arak, Greg Johnson, Dan Jagendorf '86, Kelly AuCoin '89, Jennifer Steil '90, and Carolyn Hall '91.** Fred Lassen '90 had planned to attend, but canceled because of his work as assistant musical director for Andrew Lloyd Webber's newest production, *Whistle Down the Wind*, in

1988 CONTINUED

Washington, D.C. **Marci Glotzer** and **Deb Vandergrift** had accepted, but were absent because they were both working at The Hartford Stage Company. Robb says he would like to make this mini-reunion a semi-annual event, and asks New York area Obie friends to contact him for the next date. E-mail: RBarnard@aol.com ▼

Tim Cross has been performing as an actor and singer in productions around the world; most recently he played Sparky in the national tour of *Forever Plaid*. Address: 204 West 106th St. #47, New York, NY 10025. Phone: (212) 749-6012. E-mail: twc6@juno.com ▼ **Sharon Fuller** has graduated from midwifery school, and expects to be licensed in August. She says she hopes to start her own practice once she "scrounges the financing." Address: 737 Belmont Pl. E., #202, Seattle, WA 98102. Phone: (206) 3201139. E-mail: 103223.1203@compuserve.com ▼ **Tom**

Hallenbeck says he has been trying to stay out of the sun since he moved to California in 1988. For the first four years there, he played with Harm Farm, a rock & roll band, made two recordings, and did four national tours. After the next two years of what he calls "crummy day jobs," he enrolled in trade school where he earned a degree in electronics. In 1995 he began work as a cleanroom technician for KLA Instruments in San Jose, "spending 12 hours a day in a bunny suit." Currently he is a programmer for Presenting Solutions, Inc. in Oakland, and moonlighting as a bass player and singer for Crank, "the last hope for American music," says Tom. Address: 4140 Gilbert St. Oakland, CA 94611. Phone: (510) 654-0180. E-mail: drchaos@ix.netcom.com Web site: pw2.netcom.com/~drchaos/xl.html ▼

Brian Hanlon is in residency at Brown University School of Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital. Brian did cancer research at Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center for four years, and graduated from SUNY at Buffalo School of Medicine in 1996. Address: 490 Angell St. #203A, Providence, RI 02906. E-mail: Brian_Hanlon@brown.edu ▼ **So Heui J. Kwon** and **Michael S. Sweney** were married October 20, 1996, with the ceremony and reception held at the Charles Cowles Gallery in Manhattan, where Mike is director. Obies in attendance included Josh Abrams, Phil Alexander, Doug Still, Joe Apprendi, Jill Kramer

Colman, Jeff Colman, Barrie Tragash Covington, Andy Danz, Jodi Harawitz, Todd Lang, Michael Morse, Debbie Golodetz New, Jonathan New, Emily Nussbaum, Melissa Panagides-Busch, Susannah Sculco Ullrich, Joan Silberlicht Epstein, and Kelly Ward; Christine Lee and Dave Mansfield, both '95; David Eckert '93; Linda Kwon and Ken Schneider, both '89; and Laura Orleans '86. (So Heui is keeping her own name.)

Address: 284 Warren St. #3, Brooklyn, NY 112201. So Heui's e-mail: soheui@aol.com Mike's e-mail: sweny@aol.com ▼ **Evan Mulvaney** has spent the last seven years in the natural foods industry, experimenting with a number of health-benefiting natural products. He says his current favorite is Super Blue Green Algae, because he has noticed "dramatic increases in energy, total relief of skin conditions, and a dramatic decrease in colds and flus." Address: 28 Gurney St., Cambridge, MA 02138. Phone: (617) 868-8570. E-mail: 7029jgean@unbsky.cc.umb.edu ▼ Last June,

Andrea Volpe won an Alfred J. Beveridge grant from the American Historical Association to support completion of her dissertation, "Cheap Pictures: Cartes de Visite Photography and Visual Culture in America, 1858-1877." This past fall she was awarded the Wise-Susman Prize from the American Studies Association for her paper, "Bodily Attitudes: Posing Stands and the Respectable Body in Cartes de Visite Portrait Photographs." Additional presentations of her work are scheduled in San Francisco and Birmingham, England. "Other than working hard to get the dissertation finished, I've been enjoying feeling settled in one place," says Andrea.

Before graduating from **Oxford University** this spring, **Michael Kimmage '95** learned that he had been awarded a **Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies** to pursue a doctorate at Harvard. The fellowship covers tuition and fees, and provides a stipend for the first year of graduate studies.

As a **Marshall Scholar** studying European history, **Michael** earned a second bachelor's degree at **Oxford University** this year. [He chronicled his impressions of **Oxford** in the Fall-Winter 1996 OAM article, "An Oberlin Yankee in King Alfred's Court."] **Oxonians'** method of



studying history is cynical but sharp-eyed, he says. And although the method does not include a search for ideals, it did prepare him to pursue a Ph.D. in the history of American civilization by contextualizing the American history he studied at Oberlin. —RC

Address: 66 Inman St., Cambridge, MA 02129. E-mail: avolpe@eden.rutgers.edu

1989

Gail Karet is working as a postdoctoral fellow in the chemistry department at Iowa State University, and is engaged to John Vaughey, whom she met while in graduate school at Northwestern University. Address: 3000 Regency Court, Ames, IA 50010. Phone: (515) 233-0285. E-mail: gkaret@iastate.edu

▼ **Janice Koistinen** is a grad student in English at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, working on her dissertation about social reform in late 19th-century American literature. She says she gets really psyched reading books with titles like *The Dangerous Classes of New York*, "which my friends find kind of weird." Address: P.O. Box 4201, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Phone: (313) 761-5707. E-

mail: jkoi@umich.edu ▼ **Nicole Rinko** became Nicole Rinko Finnegan when she and David Finnegan were married August 12, 1995, with five Oberlin friends present: **Cindy Sanford** as brideswoman, **Julie** and **David Tiss**, "Beaver" **Bausch**, and **Theresa Szabo '90**. Their son, **Dylan**, was born October 17, 1996, during Nicole's year of absence from a master's program in speech-language pathology at the University of Virginia. Address: 213a E. Curtis Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301. Phone: (703) 299-9776. ▼ **Michael N. Schlesinger** graduated from Columbia Law School, passed the Virginia bar exam, and began work last summer with Proskauer, Rose Goetz & Mendelsohn in Washington, D.C., with a specialty in copyright law and the law of the Internet. In 1995 he published "A Sleeping Giant

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Awakens: the Development of Intellectual Property Law in China" in the *Journal of Chinese Law* at Columbia Law School. Last October, Michael was a guest speaker at the Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts Copyright Workshop, held at the University of the District of Columbia. He remains active in music, composing in his four-track studio at home, and during the 1994-1995 season, sang with the New York Choral Society. Address: 6723 Montour Dr., Falls Church, VA 22043. E-mail: mschlesinger@proskauer.com ▼ **Todd Strickland** is studying at Starr King School for the Ministry, the Unitarian/Universalist Divinity School in Berkeley. He says he was the only grad student in his co-op during the first semester, and that it was "total chaos." "Either I've gotten old and fussy, or these folks could learn something from co-ops at Oberlin." Address: 2441 Le Conte Ave. Berkeley, CA 94709. Phone: (510) 524-0816. ▼ **Benedict Weisser** is at the City University of New York's graduate school and university center as a graduate fellow and candidate for a doctoral degree in composition. His two-part dissertation includes a written portion, "Notation in Contemporary Music: A Critique of Three Compositional Models (Luciano Berio, John Cage, and Brian Ferneyhough)." He has completed the second portion, an opera about Emma Goldman, entitled, "Emma G." The work centers on a lecture by Goldman about free love and premiered at the University of Cincinnati June 16-27, 1997, where Benedict was the featured composer at the "Music Ninetyseven" Festival of New Music. The opera is scheduled for its European premiere next fall at Basel Conservatory in Switzerland. Benedict is also composing a Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra without Conductor, a commission by the Galatea Ensemble of New York. He urges his Obie friends to watch for an album by **Mitchell Rasor**, *Waterloo in Reverse*, on which Benedict plays piano. It was released in Europe in January by Strangeways Records, and they expect it will be in the US on the Big Deal label this July.

1990 **Paul Durham** lives in the Bay area with his wife, Karen DeLotis. He says he has put together a band called Black Lab, and signed a contract with Geffen Records for a

Two of a Kind

That would refer, of course, to folk-music performers David and Jenny Heitler-Klevans, both '88 . . . or, maybe to their nearly 4-year-old identical-twin sons, Ari and Jason . . . or, maybe to their second, nationally-released CD, now earning rave reviews from all sources.

David and Jenny Heitler-Klevans have all three of these twofers going for them at once. The couple has been presenting musical shows for children and grown-ups since their sons were a year-and-a-half, and they've traveled, with the little ones in tow, from Boston to California, with many performance stops in-between.

Their latest release, *Love Makes a Family*, is their second album, featuring 16 songs for young people, sung by one or both of them, and with David on the guitar. Their first CD, *Live Each Moment*, focuses on songs for each stage of life—childhood, adolescence, relationships, and growing old.

How did they prepare themselves for performing in coffeehouses, schools, libraries, daycare centers, book-stores and festivals? Jenny learned to play the piano as a child, and, during a summer at Oberlin, helped form an a capella women's group. More recently she sang for four years with the well-known Anna Cruises Choir. David's father taught him to play guitar, a skill he used playing in bluegrass groups in high school and at Oberlin. With a conservatory degree in composition, he teaches

music theory at the Sun School in Haverford, Pennsylvania. The couple was also involved for a few years with the Folk Factory Coffeehouse at the Unitarian-Universalist Church of the Restoration in Mt. Airy, a Philadelphia suburb, where they not only performed regularly, but volunteered their time to help run the center and handle bookings.

"What's really important for us is doing songs of social significance," says Jenny. They have composed songs on behalf of the reproductive rights of women and on behalf of lesbian mothers, and their new album has an anti-smoking song; one about black and white playmates whose mothers are upset by the friendship; and another about a deaf girl who is teased and shunned until she teaches her classmates how to sign.

Wearing their Dr. Suess-type, tall, striped, stovepipe hats, they hold an audience's attention from the first moment. Surely it's only a matter of time until little Ari and Jason join the act. Then they'll be billed "Four of a Kind," which, of course, is what they are.

—MC
Write David and Jenny at david2kind@aol.com



release to be available in early summer. Address: 1817 Woolsey St., Berkeley, CA 94703. Phone and fax: (510) 848-4884. Pager (800) 497-6353. E-mail: PRDurham@aol.com ▼ **Elise Nussbaum Jacobs** says the family moved to "the great Northwest" to work for Microsoft. As of last December, she says, they were living in a "dumpy, leaking basement apartment" while their new house is being built. Address: P.O. Box 28340, Seattle, WA 98118. Phone: (206) 725-4333. E-mail: andyj@microsoft.com ▼ **Paul Silbergleit** says 1996 was a year of "positive steps:" he is still playing and teaching guitar; he volunteered at the public elementary French Language Immersion School while conducting his own study of French; he began the study of Tai Chi; recorded a self-produced jazz CD (see Classifieds, Spring 1997 OAM); and joined the faculty of the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Address: 1661A N, Arlington Pl.,

Milwaukee, WI 53202. Phone: (414) 276-1554. ▼ **Tom Transue** and **Janice Jones** were married on Janice's parents' farm in Sweet Valley, Pa., June 22, 1996. Obies attending were **Megan Keister** as a bridesmaid, **Vincent Craig**, **Eren Gibson**, **Matt Gilbert**, **Dave Shanks**, **Kit Transue**, **Eric Lease** '89, and **Sara Sullivan** '88. Although Janice earned an MA in environmental policy at Indiana University in 1993, she soon became a professional dog trainer. Tom earned his PhD in biochemistry with a specialization in x-ray crystallography at the University of Michigan in December 1995. The couple lives in Brussels, Belgium, where Tom is working for the Free University of Brussels, and Janice is training dogs for the U.S. Military NATO Support Activities. Address: Terhayderstratt 54, B-1640, Sint-Genesius-Rode, Belgium. E-mail: transue@ultr.vub.ac.be ▼ **Sharon Vandivere** married Scott Williams

September 1, 1996. Among the Oberlin friends attending were **Abby Armstrong**, **Maureen McCarthy**, **Sara Memmott**, **April Purcell**, **Warren SooHoo**, **Robert Williams**, and **Elena Perez** '94. Because Scott "connived" to get to know Sharon by forming a book club, she says, they thought it fitting to be married in a library. A vegan buffet followed the ceremony, although Sharon says she is not a strict vegetarian. Scott works as director of the Farm Animal Reform Movement, a vegetarian-animal rights group, and Sharon works for the National Research Council. They plan to remain in Washington, and Sharon expects to begin working towards a master's degree in public policy in the fall. Sharon says her biggest accomplishment since Oberlin was completing the 4.4-mile Chesapeake Bay swim in 1994. Address: 4850 MacArthur Blvd. NW #101, Washington, DC 20007. Phone:

1990 CONTINUED

(202) 338-7533. E-mail:

svandive@nas.edu ▼ **David Zajic** earned an MS in computer science at the University of Maryland at College Park in May 1995, and remained to work on a PhD in computational linguistics while working for the MITRE Corp. Meanwhile, he has been keeping his musical interests burnished by conducting *The Mikado* for the Victorian Lyric Opera Company. The Columbia Orchestra, a community group in Columbia, Maryland, premiered David's *A Goblin's Trick Overture* last October. The work, based on some sketches written for an Oberlin conservatory orchestration class, was performed again at a children's concert conducted by the composer last November. Address: 8541 Black Star Cir., Columbia, MD 21045. E-mail: dmzajic@cs.umd.edu

1991

After five years of work, **Adam Cole** finished his first string quartet in E-Augmented last December. He says that despite an unmercifully long gestation and labor, the piece, approximately 15-minutes in length, weighs in at only three movements. Adam also says that he is quite anxious to begin his second string quartet, and will do so "just as soon as hell freezes over." Address: 1080 Colquitt Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30307. Phone: (404) 577-9160.

▼ **Lara Webber** completed her tenure as music director and conductor of the Debut Orchestra in Los Angeles last June, and since then has been guest-conducting the Colorado Springs Symphony. Lara was named assistant conductor of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, effective full-time beginning September 1997. She married S. Julio Friedmann, geologist, composer and "all around fantastic guy" in Los Angeles in May 1995 with Dan Gelperin '90, Joanie Messner '90, and "mom-extraordinaire," Carol Webber '65, in attendance. The couple lives in Houston, Texas, and say they will soon be discovering the joys of commuting. E-mail: juliolara@earthlink.net ▼ New York attorney **Boris Ziser** and his wife, Elizabeth, announce the birth of their daughter, Rachel Emily, December 19, 1996. Phone: (212) 821-8718. E-mail: bziser@willkie.com

1992

Chris Dumas is completing his master's degree in film

studies at Columbia, and has started his own record label with a group of high-school buddies. Web site: www.columbia.edu/~cd42 ▼ **Roger Falcin** and Hélène Vermorel were married in Paris December 8, 1996, with Jason Thompson '93 as best man. The newlyweds moved to Manhattan in January. Address: 390 Riverside Dr., Apt. 14G, New York, NY 10025. Phone: (212) 316-0476. ▼ **Rachel Howald**, a copywriter at

Young & Rubicam New York, is amusing millions of subway riders with ads she helped create for the Bronx Zoo. (The chameleon complains, "It's not easy being green...then blue...then yellow.") With a graduate degree in advertising from University of Texas-Austin, she was first hired by the DDB Needham agency in Manhattan. "I promise you, this young lady is going places," her recruiter said. Level-headed, and with

a North Carolina farm background, Rachel simply shrugs off all the compliments. ▼ **Brian Saner Lamken** married "the love of my life," Ellen Hurwitz, December 22, 1996, in Washington, D.C. Ellen's sister, Anna '92, was maid of honor. Heather and Tom White, and Meredith Ward, all '89, were in attendance as were Sara Murphy '96, and Adam Cole '91. Alison D'Amato '93 accompanied the processional on

Young Connies Take Wing

"...these players showed an unremitting intensity in the intricate kinetic landscape and a professionally assured technique in the most demanding situations."

Pretty high praise for a chamber ensemble whose eldest members graduated just two years ago from the Conservatory of Music. Yet that's what The Los Angeles Times music critic wrote about eighth blackbird's April 27 performance of Schönberg's Chamber Symphony. Just the previous day, eighth blackbird had taken top honors—the Coleman-Barstow Award for Woodwinds & Brass—in the 51st Annual Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition, one of the nation's major competitions. Their lauded performance was part of the Coleman's Winners Concert.

The sextet's present members first came together in 1995 in an ensemble formed a year earlier by Timothy Weiss, professor of wind conducting and director of the Contemporary Music Ensemble. A January 1996 invitation from composer Wendell Logan, professor of jazz studies and Afro-American music, to record his composition *Moments* for an as-yet unreleased collection was a pivotal moment in eighth blackbird's development, as was their capture of first prize in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition later that summer.

The group's accomplishments aren't its only memorable attributes. There's the noteworthy name, eighth blackbird, taken from the eighth stanza of Wallace Stevens's equally resonant poem "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird": "I know noble accents, And lucid, inescapable rhythms; . . ." There's the uncommon instrumentation—violin, clarinet, cello, flute, piano, and percussion, a grouping known as Pierrot Sextet in reference to Schönberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, the first piece to provoke attention to the odd combination. And eighth blackbird's commitment to 20th-century music is steadfast. Always in search of works written for its instrumentation, the sextet has commissioned compositions



eighth blackbird is, from left to right: (seated) cellist Nicholas Photinos '96 and percussionist Matthew Duvall '95, (standing) flutist Molly Barth '96, clarinetist Michael Maccaferri '95, violinist Matthew Albert '96, and pianist Lisa Kaplan '97. Photograph courtesy of eighth blackbird.

from Burton Hatheway, Thomas Albert, and Pieter Snapper, and considered arrangements of other pieces as well as of popular songs.

In early spring sextet members learned that the ensemble had been accepted into the the University of Cincinnati's Artist Diploma program. They'll each earn an artist diploma in chamber-music performance. Before heading to Cincinnati, they spent May, June, and early July traveling to several music festivals for study and concertizing.

For those Obies who have grown accustomed to a blackbird fix every now and then, and there are many, the group has promised to return to campus often to give concerts. And they're planning a November concert in Chicago, performing works by members of the Chicago Composers' Consortium. Check out their web site for a more complete and detailed schedule of blackbird sightings: members.aol.com/eighthbb/index.html

—CN

Presence, Persistence and Success

(continued from page 15)

held April 11-13, enticing more than 125 alumni and their guests to campus.

The arts were a major component of the weekend's activities. Besides Brooks's performance, the roster included a concert by the student singing group Voices for Christ, a production of senior Kyo Freeman's play, *If I Should Die Tonight*, about the last day of Marvin Gaye's life, and a traditional Afrikan Heritage



House Soul Session elicited impromptu offerings from alumni and students alike. African-Americans' use of the arts to elevate their condition in the United States was the subject of a discussion, with a faculty panel and audience members, led by Caroline Jackson-Smith, a professor of African-American studies and theater at Oberlin.



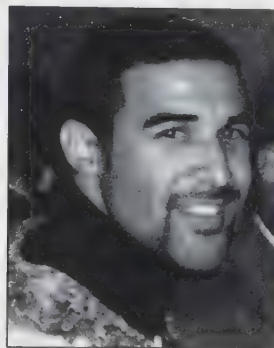
Individual alums from the '20s, '40s, '50s, and '80s spoke about their years at the College during the discussion Through the Generations: The Black Experience at Oberlin. And at Saturday night's dinner and reception, at which Oberlin College trustee



William L. Robinson '63 gave the keynote address, the group inducted the African-American Alumni/ae Hall of Fame's first class: Mary Jane Patterson, Class of 1862; George A. Walker, Jr. '41; Albert McQueen '52; and Charlene Cole-Newkirk '74.



This year, as during past reunions, alumni welcomed student involvement in all of the weekends' activities. Tammy Dowley-Blackman '90 devised a career and networking session in which alumni discussed with students career interests and issues they'll confront in the work world. They also helped students polish their resumes and develop interview skills. Flyers that proclaimed "The Real World Awaits! Be Ready for It," succeeded in attracting many people,



says African-American Alumni/ae Committee chairperson Alicia Jacobs '77. The notices were so successful, in fact, that the three-hour-long session proved too short a time to make maximum use of all the expertise available, she says.

—CN

All photographs courtesy of Charlene Cole-Newkirk



piano. The couple has settled down in central Pennsylvania with their two cats, Pebbles and Bamm-Bamm. Brian says they keep him pretty busy, but that he manages to work on expanding his newly incorporated publishing empire from time to time. Address: 240 Toftrees Ave., State College, PA 16803. Phone: (814) 861-5572. E-mail: blamken@compserve.com

1993 On January 25, 1997, Debra Wexler married Mark Rush in Garrison, N.Y. Miriam Sicherman was maid of honor, and among the wedding guests were Susan Bleyle, Nina Brown, Julie Chinitz, Garbielle Gallucci, Rachel Gorney, Natasha Herron, Tamar Kotelchuck, Andy Waxman, and Greg Travis '91.

1994 Carmelita Chu and Luke Housner '93 were married September 30, 1996, in Collingswood, N.J. A reception and dinner for the couple was held in December at the Deux Cheminees restaurant in Philadelphia with several Oberlin friends present: Dave Mancusco and

Dabwen Jiang, both '93, Bob MacDonald '92, and Rob Grabill '73. Each of the Oberlin contingent offered the couple a wedding toast. Carmelita is on the faculty at the Settlement Music School in Philadelphia, the Haddonfield (N.J.) School of Creative and Performing Arts (directed by Karen Houston '73), and the New Jersey School of Music. Luke coaches singers at Bryn Mawr Conservatory of Music and Curtis Institute of Music, and they both concertize as a piano duo. ▼

Kemi Fiator works for the National Association of Biology Teachers' Education Department, presently conducting national field-testing of biology labs for high-school and college classes through two National Science Foundation grants awarded for the projects Shoestring Biotechnology and Student Research. Kemi is also working part-time toward an MA in biology. Address: 1660 Water's Edge Lane, Reston, VA 120190. Phone: (703) 471-1134. E-mail: kfiator@aol.com ▼

Anjula Jalan spent a year in Bangladesh working as an educational intern for a rural development group, assisting in

designing the curriculum and training teachers for primary school. Last year she was research coordinator for the Center for Research and Evaluation with children and adolescents in Boston at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Anjula is in a master's program at Teachers College of Columbia University studying elementary education, and expects to be certified by the end of the year.

1995 Jenni Dikes spent a year in the PhD program at Cornell, studying medieval history, and then decided to move on to the business world. She is at the Better Business Bureau of New York writing reports on city businesses and advisory reports on industries. Jenni also is studying Icelandic, preparing for a trip to Iceland in 1998, and says that although she finds the language difficult, "at least there is no ablative." Address: 219 W. 81st St. #9H, New York, NY 10024-5828. Phone: (212) 501-7259. ▼ Beth Sabo says she is dancing, dancing, dancing! She recently performed a solo

for a choreographer's showcase that premiered at Oberlin, and is choreographing a dance/theater piece about laughing and crying. She says she is also dancing for several choreographers and companies while earning a living as a "temp" worker, and that she and Aurea Kelvin '93 are sharing living quarters. Address: 392 Green St., San Francisco CA 94133. Phone: (415) 544-0432.

1996 Navy Seaman Recruit Justin B. Deleon-Horton has completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., joining the 55,000 men and women who will enter the navy this year.

Corrections, Additions and Amplifications

to the Spring 1997 Class Notes:

▼ Gregg S. Weinberg '90 wants his friends to have his home phone number: (212) 787-8605.

▼ The correct phone number for Leonard Jewell '83 is (508) 366-6263.

Losses in the Oberlin Family



FACULTY

William Lanier died April 28, 1997, in Emporia, Kans., at 43. He was a member of Oberlin's geology department between 1985 and 1989. A specialist in the study of sediments and the early history of life, he earned an MA at Louisiana State University and a PhD at the University of Arizona. He joined Emporia State University's department of earth science in 1989; he was associate professor at the time of his death. Bruce Simonson, Oberlin professor of geology, remembers Mr. Lanier as "an energetic, hands-on scientist who did important research on subjects as diverse as modern tidal flats in France and a 3.4 billion-year-old volcanic strata in South Africa." A first-rate chef, he was also captain of the only softball team the Oberlin geology department fielded in the last 20 years. Mr. Lanier is survived by his wife, Susan Stover, their three daughters, his mother, a brother, and three sisters.

1916

A. Ray Calhoon, 104, died January 17, 1997, at the Heritage Home in Utica, N.Y. His master's degree in education, earned at Syracuse University in 1932, served him well. After his Army service in WWII, followed by a stint as a research chemist, he became principal of several primary and secondary schools and academies, and, later, a director of secondary education. In retirement, he represented Scholastic Books and Magazines in central New York. Throughout his last years he stayed mentally alert, as well as physically fit, bowling into his 90s, and gardening until he was 100. Aside from his many professional affiliations, Mr. Calhoon served on the Utica Junior Symphony Orchestra's board of directors. He published an autobiography, *Just One in A Million*, and several of his articles appeared in educational journals. He is survived by two daughters, seven grandchildren, a sister, a brother, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

1923

Phyllis Holbrook, 95, died January 18, 1997, at the Manor Care Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Columbia, N.C. After teaching briefly, Miss Holbrook joined the Detroit Public Library in 1925. After retiring in 1952 she

made an extensive visit to England to research her family's pre-Mayflower origins. Returning to Coldwater, Mich., where her family had lived for several generations, she worked part-time in the Coldwater Public Library. Exploring the library's attic, she located piles of old newspapers, dating from 1841 to 1912, that held a wealth of historical data on Coldwater and the county. She spent many years compiling a 13-volume index of the articles, available to those tracing the history of their families in the region. In 1990 Miss Holbrook moved to South Carolina to be close to a nephew. She is survived by two nephews and two nieces.

Joel Hopkins Whitaker, 95, died December 20, 1996, in the Granville, Ill., home where he had lived for 63 years. One of more than 30 family members who have attended Oberlin during the last 134 years, Mr. Whitaker joined his cousins Eleanor Hopkins Bent and Mary McCord Parsons on campus, both '22, and was later joined by his cousin Joel W. Hopkins and his sister, Sarah Whitaker Maze, both '24. (These four alumni predeceased Mr. Whitaker.) He once recalled that he almost wasn't an alum—in the great flu pandemic of 1918-1919, the students in the beds on either side of him in the Oberlin infirmary died. Mr. Whitaker managed an agricultural co-op in Illinois for 42 years. Always proud of his association with Oberlin, he attended many class reunions, and, in 1966, along with his cousins Eleanor Bent and Joel Hopkins, established the Hopkins-Whitaker-Bent Scholarship Fund. He is survived by three sons, Joel P. Whitaker '56, James W. Whitaker '60, and Sidney H. Whitaker '62; five grandchildren, among whom are Joel F. Whitaker and Katherine C. Whitaker, both '97; and three great-grandchildren.

1925

William Theodore Cooke died November 21, 1996, in Agoura, Calif., at 93. After earning his MA in physics at the University of Michigan, he was employed by Sperry Rand Corp. as a research physicist until his retirement. Mr. Cooke was predeceased by his first wife, Sibyl Stapleton '25, in 1965, and his sisters, Frances Lydia Stansfield '37 and Helen Cooke Cool '28. His wife of 27 years, Antoinette, survives him.

Catherine Holley, 94, died January 7, 1997, at St. Anthony Regional Hospital in Carroll, Iowa. She was a life-long resident of Carroll, and, for more than 40 years, organist at the Presbyterian Church, the Trinity Episcopal Church, and for the local Earl Theatre when silent movies were shown. Mrs. Holley also gave private piano lessons for 20 years, and taught each of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren to play the piano. She was a nurse's aide for 20 years at St. Anthony's Regional Hospital, working primarily in the obstetrical department. Preceded in death by her husband, she is survived by two daughters, a son, 12 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

Corrie Virginia Matters, 92, died November 11, 1996, in DeLand, Fla. After graduating magna cum laude from Oberlin, she served with the Women's Army Corps in Casablanca, and taught for several years in China at the North China American School. Miss Matters worked for 30 years as translator and editor with the Puerto Rico Department of Instruction, and then moved in 1983 from Mayaguez to Deltona, Fla. Her volunteer activities included working at the nearby DeLand Museum, the American Cancer Society, and an area day-care center. She is survived by three sisters.

Edith Connet Williams died at 92 years of age in Willoughby, Ohio, December 27, 1996. She worked for 29 years at the Cleveland Planned Parenthood Clinic, and after retirement spent her time as part of the Fairmount Presbyterian Church's visiting ministry, visiting church members in need of support in their homes or hospital rooms. Mrs. Williams, who was predeceased by her husband, is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

1926

Sue Bailey Thurman died in her sleep December 25, 1996, at the San Francisco Zen Buddhist Hospice Center in San Francisco, Calif., at 93. Mrs. Thurman devoted her life to interracial, intercultural, and international understanding. The first editor of the *Afro-American Woman's Journal*, she was the first black woman to meet with Mohandas Gandhi to discuss the use of nonviolent resistance to effect social change. That meeting occurred in 1936 during her visit, along with other African-Americans, to the universities and colleges of India, Burma, and Ceylon. At that time she began collecting dolls of various ethnicities as a means of fostering better understanding and appreciation of the cultures of the world among college students. Mrs. Thurman founded the Museum of Afro-American History on Beacon Hill in Boston's African Meeting House. In 1932 she married Howard Thurman, then the director of religious life at Morehouse and Spelman colleges, and in 1944 they cofounded the first interracial non-denominational church in the United States—the San Francisco Fellowship of All Peoples. She is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Laura McMillan McPhee died January 27, 1997, at her home in Clearwater, Fla., at 92. She retired from the New Rochelle, New York, school system, where she taught physical education and library sciences. In 1929 she married Oberlin classmate Harold Bryant McPhee '26, who died in 1970. Two sons survive, including Richard '56.

1927

Florence Wight Price died July 25, 1996, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, Ill. She had worked for 15 years as a children's librarian in Lombard, Ill., where she was

Memorial Minute

DAVID LEONARD ANDERSON

1919–1996

Emeritus Professor of Physics

By Joseph N. Palmieri

David Leonard Anderson was born in Portland, Oregon, on December 19, 1919, the grandchild of Swedish and Norwegian immigrants. He died in Oberlin on March 8, 1996.

Dave grew up in Portland. With a \$400 tuition scholarship he was able to enroll in Harvard University, from which he received his bachelor of science degree in 1941. His education was interrupted by the need for scientists to work on war-related matters. Dave served as an associate scientist at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory from 1943 to 1946, working on the development of the atomic bomb. For recreation, he helped to direct a production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. At the curtain call, a celebrated group of corpses emerged from the cellar: J. R. Oppenheimer, Edward Teller, Otto Frisch, Hans Bethe, and Enrico Fermi. In 1945–46, as an ensign and, later, lieutenant junior grade in the United States Navy, he participated in two atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. Years of reflection never led him to regret his wartime involvement since use of the bombs saved many American lives and helped to end World War II.

Dave came to Oberlin College in the fall of 1948. He soon introduced a course, *Revolutions and Discoveries in Physics*, specifically intended for nonscience students, that became affectionately known as “poets’ physics.” The course included a laboratory component and was designed to treat several topics in depth, and not to be a superficial version of a course for science students. It was several decades before more courses of this kind were introduced; now they are numerous.

He finished writing his thesis and received his doctorate from Harvard in 1950. Over the years, Dave probably taught more courses for nonscience students than for physics majors. A very popular course was *Introductory Astronomy*, even though it lacked a laboratory component and, therefore, did not satisfy distribution requirements in the ’50s and ’60s. Dave’s broad background allowed him to teach several inter-

disciplinary (cross-listed) courses on the history of science and the relationship between science and religion.

He was introduced to the Episcopal Church during his sophomore year at Harvard. He became so interested that he considered entering the seminary rather than doing graduate work in physics, but the excitement of the collaborative work and collegiality at Los Alamos helped him to decide to pursue physics. After he came to Oberlin, he turned again to the church. He studied and took examinations that allowed him to be ordained an Episcopal priest in September 1956.

As chair of the physics department in the ’60s, he hired several current members of the department: Bob Warner, Bruce Richards, Joe Snider, and myself. He was the first Oberlin representative I met. I recall that when we met at the Cleveland airport, he stammered and said, with great embarrassment, that somehow the plans had gotten mixed up, and we had to wait an hour to pick up another candidate for the same position that I was applying for.

Dave authored two books on the history of physics: *The Discovery of the Electron* (1964) and *The Discovery of Nuclear Fission* (with Hans Graetzer, in 1971). He was very pleased that the former was translated into Swedish, as well as Polish, Russian, Italian, and Spanish.

Dave was a firm believer in faculty governance. In an *Observer* interview in May 1984, he bemoaned the fact that administrators were making more and more decisions that used to be made by the faculty. He attributed this to “faculty abdication” of the role.

He served frequently on the College Faculty Council and the General Faculty Council. In the late ’60s he chaired the Student Life Committee that brought in a series of proposals that eventually ended most in loco parentis rules.

A colleague recalls Dave’s exemplary service to Oberlin by reflecting on “his chairing of the committee of faculty that offered advice to the Board of Trustees on the selection of a president to

(Continued on page 41)



president of the Lombard Women’s Club. She served as archivist for the Lombard Historical Society for many years, and was active with the League of Women Voters, as well as being past president of the Lombard-area Girl Scout Council. Among her other activities were memberships in the Lombard Camera Club and the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is survived by her husband, Clarence, a son, a daughter, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

1928 **Esther Tappe Ferguson** died October 10, 1995, at age 88, in Toledo, Ohio. Surviving her is her husband, Calvin Rock Ferguson ’26, to whom she was married 65 years. Mrs. Ferguson was preceded in death by one son, and leaves two sons, two sisters, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1929 **Paul A. Humiston**, age 90, died in Marshall, Mich., June 17, 1996, after a long illness. He played organ professionally even before attending Oberlin; at age 15 he had a job as organist for a German Lutheran church with 3000 members in Sandusky, Ohio. During his first postgraduate position in Grand Rapids he built up the choirs while serving as choir master and organist. He moved to Marshall in 1937 as choir master and organist at Trinity Episcopal Church, teaching organ, piano, and voice, a position he held for 34 years until retiring in 1969. He is survived by his wife, Nettie “Trix” Graf Humiston ’32, two sons, 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1930 **Bernard “Bun” Louis Gladieux**, an honorary trustee of the College, died May 18, 1997, in Oberlin. Predeceased by his wife, Persis Skilliter Gladieux ’30 in 1991, he is survived by four sons, including Lawrence ’65. A Memorial Minute will appear in a future issue of the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*.

Richard Putnam Metcalf, 87, died January 31, 1997, in Oak Ridge, Tenn., of heart failure. A physicist and chemist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory from 1946 to 1974, he continued as a technical editor and writer for many years after retiring from ORNL. He was an amateur musician and played trombone in the Oak Ridge Community Band, celebrating his 70th birthday at a band concert, and he continued to play recorder throughout the last months of his life. Mr. Metcalf earned his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1939, and, after teaching for three years, joined the U.S. Navy Bureau of Ships as an assistant chemist. In 1944 he joined the Manhattan Project, first at the University of Chicago Metallurgical Laboratory, then at Los Alamos, next at Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands, and finally at Oak Ridge. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, two sons, a daughter, two grandchildren, and a brother.

1931 William Collins Biel died February 15, 1997, in Santa Barbara, Calif., at 88. He retired in 1979 from the University of Southern California as assistant vice president for academic affairs and professor of psychology. He had been at the university since 1964 when he left the System Development Corporation as vice president and member of the board of trustees. He earlier had worked for the Rand Corporation and Aero Medical Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and held academic positions at Antioch and Denison colleges and the Ohio State and Miami universities. In 1979 Mr. Biel and two other former Rand behavioral scientists were presented the Human Factors Society's Alexander C. Williams, Jr., Award for creating the air-defense-systems training program and associated large-scale people-machine system simulation experiments in the early 1950s. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Magda Von Wenck '30. Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane Krebs, six children and 10 grandchildren.

Hugh Elmer, 87, died December 7, 1996, in Jacksonville, Fla. Born in Turkey, Mr. Elmer had lived in Jacksonville for 52 years, and was retired from the Railway Express Agency. Among survivors are his wife of 64 years, Kathleen, two daughters, a son, nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

1932 Lucille Mellon Burnap died July 6, 1996, in Chrystal River, Fla., at 85. After obtaining an MS in retailing at NYU, she worked at several major Manhattan department stores before moving to Pelham with her husband, E. Gifford Burnap '29. She became a real estate broker in the Pelham area, and later divided her time between a lakeside country home and Florida. She was predeceased by her husband, and leaves three sons, a daughter, and 10 grandchildren.

Gwen Seign Converse died October 15, 1996, in Cleveland, Ohio. She was 85. Her professional career included positions as the national woman's editor for the American Cancer Society, a motion picture consultant, a publicist for the National Association for Mental Health, and, in later years, freelance writer and editor.

1933 Dean Howard Lightner died December 6, 1996, in Meadville, Pa., at age 85. He was the son of Dean H. Lightner, Sr. '06 and Grace Herreid Lightner '08. After graduating from Harvard's business school in 1935, he went to work with the Talon Zipper Co. in Meadville. When the firm was sold, Mr. Lightner was transferred as chief accountant to St. Joseph, Mich., where he lived for more than 30 years before returning to Meadville. He sang for many years with the choir of the First Congregational Church of St. Joseph. Mr. Lightner is survived by his wife, Marjorie, two children, six

grandchildren, and a sister, Ruth Lightner Brown '38.

1934 Beatrice M. Green, 85, died February 9, 1997, in Willoughby, Ohio. A graduate of the Harvard Course, a Harvard program that trained students to teach blind people, Miss Green taught Braille in Cleveland public schools for 37 years. She was born in Meadville, Pa., and moved to East Cleveland when she was 14, earning money for college working as a page in the Cleveland Public Library for several years. She worked at the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston, Mass., and at the Maryland School for the Blind in Overlea, Md., before joining the Cleveland school system. An ardent student of French, she was a member of the Maison Française de Cleveland, an organization

Memorial Minute

BARBARA JEAN CALMER

1923-1996

Emerita Associate Professor of Physical Education

By Donald Hunsinger

Barbara Jean "Bonnie" Calmer was born on August 30, 1923, in Sioux City, Iowa. She died November 1, 1996, at the Anchor Lodge Nursing Center in Lorain, Ohio.

Bonnie truly characterized the ideals of physical education. She received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Nebraska and a master's degree in physical education from New York University. Bonnie came to Oberlin College in 1950 as an instructor. She became an associate professor and, in 1983, after 33 years of service, she retired for health reasons. Bonnie was involved in the entire physical education program. She taught a wide range of activity classes, several classes in the major, did some coaching, and served a term as department chair. Her real passion, however, was motor learning. In addition to the classes she taught in this area, she did extensive work with motor learning as a volunteer at the Lucy Idol Center in Vermilion, Ohio. She also served for several years on the board of directors of Lucy Idol.

In 1991, she received the Lorain County United Way Community Service Award for all her wonderful volunteer work. The citation on the award indicated that it was for "tireless giving of her time and expertise to improve services to

clients, for service as a consultant to staff in implementing swimming and physical rehabilitation programs. She has touched the lives of many young multi-handicapped students in their endeavors, and has enriched their ability to care for themselves."

Bonnie was a dedicated colleague, a wonderful person, and a deeply caring human being. She was beloved by her students and all those whom she touched at Lucy Idol. She was good at her profession. She had a deep belief in the value of physical education, and once said, "Physical education is just that—the education of the mind through physical movement. Learning to swim, for example, can be very frightening. How-

ever, once you become at home in the water, a whole new range of physical activity becomes possible, and essentially the same can be said of dance."

We will always remember Barbara Jean Calmer with love and deep respect, but most of all, we will miss you, Bonnie.

DONALD HUNSINGER is associate professor and Delta Lodge/Oliver Director of Athletics and Physical Education at Oberlin College. This Memorial Minute was adopted by the General Faculty May 20, 1997.



that promoted Franco-American cultural activities and awarded monetary prizes to Cleveland secondary students. Miss Green is survived by her brother and sister.

1937 Lois A. "Tex" Bingham, 83, died of congestive heart failure December 13, 1996, in Washington, D.C. She worked for the government for 38 years before retiring in 1981 as programs support office chief of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art. After earning BA and MA degrees in fine arts at Oberlin, she began her career in 1943 as the National Gallery of Art's associate curator for education. In 1954 she transferred to the U.S. Information Agency, where she was fine arts division chief of the exhibitions branch and international arts program chief. She joined the

Memorial Minute

EILEEN THORNTON

1909–1997

Emerita Librarian

By Ray English

Eileen Thornton was born in Wexford, Ireland, in 1909 and grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota. She graduated cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1931, earning a bachelor's degree in English and library science. In her early career she worked in public, school, and academic library positions in Minnesota and Iowa. In 1942 she enrolled in the University of Chicago Library School, which was then the leading school of library science in the nation, earning the masters degree in 1945. During that same period she was college librarian and, later, administrative assistant to the library director at the University of Chicago. In 1945 Eileen was appointed college librarian at Vassar College, a post she held for 11 years.



wanted and pressed hard for it. She fought, for example, to have the new main library located at the center of the campus and worked consistently to make the library as responsive as possible to student needs. She was widely regarded as a no-nonsense person, who excelled at communicating exactly what she meant. Some students perceived her as fierce while others, who were more closely associated with her, appreciated her firm principles. She was witty, quick-minded, facile with words, and very effective in written communication. She was also very sociable and engaging, having a fine ability to tell entertaining anecdotes and hold a group's attention. One of her co-workers relates that Eileen was a superb mimic,

able to imitate others almost at will; she remembers in particular an impersonation of Edith Sitwell by Eileen that brought raucous laughter to the librarians who heard it. A staff member summarizes her character well in saying that Eileen was "very classy, in sort of an East Coast style, literary and sophisticated, and tough as a boot."

With the exception of the dean of women (who, by definition, was female), Eileen was for most of her career at Oberlin the sole female senior administrator in a male-dominated administrative structure. As such she was very attuned to issues related to women. In a 1964 memo to the business office, for example, she asks in passing, "Can we avoid using that bastard term *coed* in official publications? It is just as easy to say women students or women college students, and in better taste, I think. Coeducation means the education of men and women together; *coed* is an American colloquial for female student, for some odd reason. I happen to loathe it, just as I loathe [the words] *frat* and *varsity* and a few other dated vulgarisms." Despite her obvious affinity with women's issues, Eileen was not perceived as a strong feminist; she seemed to prefer proving herself regardless of gender and demonstrating in various ways her personal independence.

Eileen was an important figure in the profession of librarianship. Before coming to

(Continued on page 41)

Museum of American Art in 1972. She is survived by her brother and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions in her name may be sent to Oberlin College, 50 W. Lorain St., Oberlin, OH 44074-1089.

Charles Lewis Tarter, author, pastor, and civil-rights leader, died February 13, 1997, in West Chester, Pa. He earned an MA in religious education at Columbia Teacher's College and an MA at Union Theological Seminary. Settling in Paterson, N.J., he became pastor to the St. Augustine Presbyterian Church in 1939. As an Army chaplain during WWII, he ministered to the wounded during the Philippines campaign, eventually rising to rank of captain. Back in the U.S. he joined the Passaic County Probation Department as a probation officer, a post he held until 1968. Mr. Tarter broke the color barrier at Paterson's Fabian Theater by repeatedly taking a seat in the first-floor lobby when blacks were allowed to sit only on the second floor. In his spare time he found a publisher for *Family of Destiny*, his novel about a black family's battle to gain personal and economic status in a city on the Mason-Dixon line. A swimmer, he was a charter member of the Baltimore Polar Bear Club, and one of the first to swim across the Chesapeake Bay in icy waters. He is survived by his wife, Mauretta.

Francis Carlile Tucker, 81, of Freeport, Ill., died December 24, 1996, of non-Hodgkins lymphoma at the home of his son in Fox Point, Wisc. Born in Pei Tai Ho, Hopei, China, he came to the U.S. to attend Oberlin, and then earned an MD at Harvard's medical school. Awarded the Bronze Star for his WWII service as a medical liaison officer in the China-Burma-India theater of war, Mr. Tucker served another 20 years in the U.S. Army, eventually earning the rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1960, he was presented the Army Combat Medal of Honor Award by the Republic of China. Certified by the College of American Pathologists, he served as a pathologist and director of the laboratory at hospitals in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Freeport, N.J., after leaving the army. After retiring from medicine in 1981, he and his wife, Emma, spent 13 years as special short-term missionaries under TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission), working among the Taiwanese and Aramis tribal people in southeast Taiwan. Surviving are his wife, two sons, three daughters, 10 grandchildren, two nieces, and two nephews.

1940 Ferdinand "Rudy" Schmidt, a decorated combat veteran of WW II and a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, died of cardiac arrest at his Arlington, Va., home October 16, 1996. He was 78. After earning an MBA at Harvard and another at the University of Akron, he entered the Army Air Force, piloting B-24 bombers in combat in the Mediterranean and Pacific theaters. For his actions

1940 CONTINUED

in the war, he received the Silver Star. After the war, he spent much of the remainder of his career in finance posts, serving in Vietnam as a military advisor in 1962 and 1963, and as comptroller for the base on Long Island. After retiring from active duty in 1968, he owned and operated Rudy's Bicycle Shop in Falls Church until the early 1980s. Predeceased by his wife, he is survived by seven sons, a brother, two sisters, and 14 grandchildren.

1941 **Don Albert Bundy** died August 14, 1996, in New York City at age 78. He retired in 1985 after 18 years with the Pension Board of the United Church of Christ in Manhattan. A graduate of Hartford Theological Seminary, he was ordained in October 1945, and served for several years as pastor of churches in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and New York.

1942 **Eleanor Cunningham Wolfe** died of complications from cancer on February 20, 1997, in Schnecksville, Pa., where she had been staying with her daughter. A longtime resident of the Barberton, Ohio, area, Mrs. Wolfe taught music and English at local schools, and was supervisor of music for Barberton's schools. She retired in 1956 to prepare for the birth of her first child. Her husband, Lewis Harvey Wolfe, and her sister, Margaret Ann Eshelman '46, preceded her in death. She is survived by a son and three daughters.

1944 **Ethel Eyman Conrad** died September 9, 1996, in Canton, Ohio, at 73. She earned a master's degree in education and a bachelor of library science degree in 1945 at Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve University), and worked for the Massillon Public Library, retiring in 1982 after 36 years as head librarian. During her tenure, she increased the collection of books by one-third and tripled the record collection. She was a board member and docent at the Spring Hill Historic Home in Canton, and she spent more than 17 years researching and writing about the history of Canton.

1950 **Dale Earle Wilson** died January 25, 1997, in Willoughby, Ohio, at age 70. He was an agent of State Farm Insurance, operating his own agency for the firm in Mentor, Ohio, from 1955 until he retired in 1993. His wife, Anne Morrison Wilson '50, who survives him, worked as his secretary for 38 years. Other survivors include a son, two daughters, six grandchildren, and a sister.

1957 **Donald Raymond Bernhardt** died October 13, 1996, at age 62, in Mansfield, Ohio, after a two-year battle with malignant melanoma. He taught music for 23 years in the Mansfield City Public School system, and for seven years with the Ashland (Ohio) City schools. An Army veteran, he played violin and viola with the Seventh Army

Symphony Orchestra, and performed at the 1958 World's Fair in Brussels. He was assistant concertmaster with the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra for several years. In 1975, when they were chosen as Ohio's Musical Family by the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs, he and his family—his

Jewel Lafontant Mankarious '43, '79 hon. 1922–1997

Civil-Rights Activist and U.S. Official

Jewel Lafontant-Mankarious, 75, died of breast cancer on May 30, 1997, at her home in Chicago. She had held high posts in the Nixon and Bush Administrations, was active in the civil-rights movement, and was on the boards of several major corporations. She was also a trustee of Oberlin College from 1980 to 1987.

Born and raised in Chicago, she was the granddaughter of John B. Stradford, Class of 1885, and daughter of noted African-American lawyer C. Francis Stradford '12, who had argued before the U.S. Supreme Court and won the landmark Hansberry case concerning neighborhood integration. (Lorraine Hansberry, the daughter of Stradford's client, based her play, *A Raisin In The Sun*, on her family's experience.)

After earning a law degree from the University of Chicago, she found that the Chicago Bar Association would not admit her as a member. Later she would be invited to serve on its board of managers, earning the prestigious Earl B. Dickerson Award in 1995.

No major white law firm would employ her, and she could not obtain office space to work on her own, so, instead, she joined the Legal Aid Bureau of United Charities of Chicago, where she was a trial attorney for seven years. The Chicago Sun-Times reported that during the early 1940s, "She brought change to the city by participating in sit-ins at Loop restaurants." In a 1991 interview, she recalled, "Often we were spat on and physically abused."

After serving as assistant U.S. district attorney for the Northern District of Illinois for the next three years, Ms. Lafontant-Mankarious was invited to second the nomination of Richard Nixon for president at the 1960 Republican National Convention.

A lifelong crusader for civil rights, she was named one of the 100 most influential black Americans by *Ebony* magazine in the early '70s. President Nixon, in 1973, named Ms. Lafontant-

Mankarious deputy solicitor general—the first woman and the first African-American to hold the position. Among the high-profile qualifications that had drawn presidential attention were her civil-rights activities as a founding member of the Congress of Racial Equality, an officer of the Chicago chapter of the NAACP, and a member of the board of the American Civil Liberties Union.

She was named a delegate to the 27th session of the United Nations General Assembly's Social and Humanitarian Committee. Under President George Bush, she served in the State Department as ambassador-at-large and as U.S. coordinator of refugee affairs, working on the resettlement of Soviet Jews and Pentecostals in 1989 and the Vietnamese boat people in 1990. In the same year, she

went to the African nation of Malawi, which had been flooded with refugees from the civil war in neighboring Mozambique.

In addition to her public service and legal work, Ms. Lafontant-Mankarious served on more than 15 corporate boards over the years, among them the Mobil Corporation, the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, TransWorld Airlines, the Hanes Corporation, Revlon, Inc., and the Bendix Corporation. She also served on the boards of several nonprofit institutions, including those of Howard University, Tuskegee Institute, and Oberlin College.

At the time of her death she was a partner in the Chicago law firm of Holleb & Coff, concentrating in the areas of corporate, labor, and employment law, and government and international relations.

Ms. Lafontant-Mankarious was awarded more than a dozen honorary degrees, including Doctor of Laws by Oberlin in 1979, and innumerable humanitarian and legal awards and citations.

She is survived by her husband of seven years, Naguib S. Mankarious, a son, and a granddaughter.



wife, oboist Carol A. Hunter '66, and their two daughters—gave a recital in Cleveland. His wife and daughters survive him, along with six brothers and six sisters.

1993 **Nigel Williams** committed suicide July

13, 1996, at age 24. His classmate and friend Hugh Ross '93 urges those who knew Nigel to contact him. [See "Letters" on page 3.]

Thornton *(continued from page 39)*

berlin she had served as president of the Minnesota Library Association and as vice president of the New York Library Association. As Oberlin's librarian she held the rare distinction of being elected president of two divisions of the American Library Association—the Association of College and Research Libraries (1957-58) and the Library Administration Division (1967-68). She was elected to the ALA Council, served on the Executive Board of the Ohio College Library Center, was an active library consultant, and taught as a visiting lecturer at the library school. She received a distinguished-service award from the Association of College and Research Libraries in 1989.

Eileen lived in Oberlin following her retirement from the College. An avid traveler, she became well-known for her frequent ocean voyages to distant points around the world, trips which she took not on cruise ships or ocean liners, but on common freighters. It was especially fitting that her distinguished service to Oberlin was recognized in 1989 when the library's primary conference room was dedicated in her honor. Eileen died at the Kendal Retirement Community on Friday, January 10, 1997.

RAY ENGLISH is Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries at Oberlin College. This Memorial Minute was adopted by the General Faculty on March 25, 1997.

Anderson *(continued from page 37)*

succeed Robert Fuller. The level of distrust between faculty and trustees was never higher than it was at that time, I think, and that made David's task virtually intolerable. Not only did he tolerate it; he carried it out with great integrity, with heroic patience (leavened occasionally by the witty asperity of which he was a master), and with uncomplaining toil."

Dave used his talents widely, within the College, in the town, and in the church. For example, he was cofounder of the Oberlin Improvement and Development Corporation, and he served as chair of the Oberlin ACLU. Sometimes these many involvements led to confusion. Once, when he was being tugged in all directions—by his usual teaching and advising duties, by endless committee assignments, and also by his service as interim rector at Christ Church—he began in his introductory astronomy course to refer to the constellations as "dioceses."

We remember David as a gentle gentleman, a loving husband, a father of four, and grandfather, as a gracious host (along with his devoted wife, Molly) to colleagues, to parishioners, to friends, and to visitors to the College. He made faculty life a bit

Memorial Minute

CLIFFORD ALDEN COOK '30

1900–1997

Emeritus Professor of Stringed Instruments and Music Education

By Herbert Henke '53

Clifford Cook died on February 20, 1997, at the age of 88. In 1994 he and his wife, Estella, moved from their retirement home in Clearwater, Florida, to Westlake, Ohio, to be near their daughter, Marilou, their three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Professor Cook took early retirement from Oberlin College in 1969 after 21 years of teaching in the Conservatory. A native of Crestline, Ohio, he came to Oberlin as a student in 1926 and stayed on to earn three degrees: in 1930 the bachelor of arts, the bachelor of school music in 1932, and in 1933, the bachelor of music in violin. During his student years he was elected to both Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Kappa Lambda.

Following his Oberlin study, Professor Cook earned the master of music degree from the Chicago Musical College in 1938. His educational background also includes summer study at the Cleveland Institute of Music, Columbia University, and the Juilliard School of Music. Before returning to Oberlin in 1948 Professor Cook taught for one year at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, and for 12 years at Judson College in Marion, Alabama. He was also a visiting faculty member at Ohio State University in the summer of 1957.

As a student and as a colleague, I remember Clifford Cook's warm, gentle demeanor, and delightful witticisms. Arthur Montzka, '57 recalls Professor Cook's ready willingness to meet with students, to share experiences, and "his quiet, friendly manner and the twinkle in his eye when he came forth with his offbeat humor." One of Clifford Cook's major contributions to Oberlin's musical life was the Oberlin College Community String Festival, which he founded and directed. There were seven between 1955 and 1966. These festivals brought town and gown together in a beautiful way. The Finney Chapel stage was filled with as many as 175 string players ranging in age from 8 to 60. Professor Cook selected compositions containing parts suited for everyone, from the most elementary beginner to the most advanced player.

The concept of the String Festival was typical

of Clifford Cook's imaginative thinking. And when his straight-faced sense of humor was added, the combination was very special to all who knew him. Right up to the end of his 87 years it was impossible to anticipate what pun or whimsical

quip Clifford would utter. Was he being serious or not? One never knew at first reaction—unless it was part of the illustrated lectures he loved to give.

I recall one on Warner Concert Hall stage where he had a large chart picturing a human ear. Somehow the ear canals were related to the canals of Venice, as Clifford gave an absurd-but-hilarious talk on ear training. Another example was the song-title travelogue with slides from his European trips.

Oberlin City Club members remember the shot of Clifford and his wife doing a two-step on a pier with the caption, "Dancing in the Dock." Probably the most memorable slide, however, showed a Whitehall guard mounted on his horse. The view was from the rear, and the caption was "London Derrière."

During his professional career, Clifford Cook was active in many states and in Japan as a clinician for stringed instrument workshops. He often adjudicated for orchestral, solo, and ensemble festivals and competitions. He was guest conductor for many regional school orchestras including the North Carolina All-State Orchestra. He wrote three books on string teaching, as well as numerous articles and reviews for professional journals and instrumental music magazines. His irrepressible humor is evident again in the title of his composition, Suite 16 for String Orchestra. He was an active member of the Music Educators National Conference and of the American String Teachers Association. The latter organization gave him a distinguished-service award as did the Suzuki Association of the Americas. In 1961, he was named String Teacher of the Year by the Ohio String Teachers Association.

In 1958 a Japanese student in the School of Theology who had played violin in one of the Oberlin Festivals showed Professor Cook a sound

(Continued on page 42)



more collegial. We remember him as a man of compassion who inquired with sincerity about the concerns of all he knew, a sympathetic listener to both students and colleagues. We remember him as a man of principles, who would give unsolicited advice to young colleagues and to presidents alike, an unswerving supporter of faculty governance and rights, an elegant speaker at faculty meetings who never let us forget matters of conscience.

He was a priest, a culinary artist, a horticulturist, a mentor, a role model, a friend, who showed magnificent courage in physical adversity. He was a quiet man of towering presence. His commitment to both physics and Christianity reassured me in my own faith at a time when most everyone I knew thought the two were mutually exclusive. May he enjoy eternal life with his Lord and Savior.

JOSEPH N. PALMERI is professor of physics at Oberlin College. This Memorial Minute was adopted by the General Faculty March 25, 1997. Professor Anderson is survived by his wife, Molly; a daughter, Constance Kittakis '81; and three sons, including Stephen '73. A David Anderson Fund has been established for the support of activities in astronomy and physics. Contributions may be sent to: Oberlin College, Office of Development & Alumni Affairs, 50 W. Lorain St., Bosworth 201, Oberlin, OH 44074-1089.

Cook (continued from page 42)

film of a Japanese String Festival. In the film were 1200 children playing violin amazingly well, and this may have been the first American look at the Suzuki method. Clifford immediately saw its potential and led the way in introducing American string teachers to the approach. He began a close collaboration with Mr. Suzuki and, in 1963, enjoyed a glorious six-week tour of Japan where he was honored by the Japanese for his work on behalf of the Talent Education Program. He arranged for a succession of Suzuki-trained Japanese teachers to be in residence at Oberlin, where they taught many of our children for a number of years. Clifford, himself, became a wonderful Suzuki teacher of young children and he presented countless concerts and workshops throughout the United States. Perhaps the best summary of Clifford Cook's many contributions to his profession is that which Doris Preucil, a leading American Suzuki teacher, recently sent to Mrs. Cook: "Clifford's openness to new ideas and his pioneering work on behalf of the Suzuki method brought unimagined ability and happiness to thousands of American families. He was so supportive of the young student, and his writings have inspired many teachers and parents."

Clifford Cook's life was one that truly made a positive difference in this world.

HERBERT HENKE is Professor of Eurhythmics at Oberlin College. This Memorial Minute was adapted by the General Faculty April 15, 1997. Mr. Cook is survived by his wife of 62 years, Estelle; his daughter, Marilou Lancashire '58; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial Minute

LAWRENCE WILSON

1900-1996

Emeritus Professor of Languages and Literature

By Mathis Szykowski

When I met Larry Wilson at my initial interview on a snowy day in January 1965, his first words to me were to warn me that in considering an appointment, I should be aware that I would be joining an institution of cutthroats and backstabbers.

That a member of the faculty would allow himself to make such a comment in the days when there was a scarcity of teachers told me that Oberlin was indeed a special place. Had Larry tried to ingratiate himself and hard-sell the institution, as other institutions had tried to do, I might have thought twice about coming to a college where, on my first visit, I got caught in a snow storm that made me lose all my plane connections.

Larry Wilson was not one to mince his words or hide his feelings. He did not shrink from embracing unpopular causes, denouncing in precise cadences the policies and reforms in the education system which did not confirm to his notions of what an educated person was supposed to know. The language laboratory was his *bête noire*, and Winter Term just another way in which the liberal technicians were molycoddling the spoiled students, and wiggling out of their responsibilities. He often was a thorn in our sides and he paid dearly for his candor. When Larry retired in 1973, he was the lowest paid professor on the faculty.

Larry became a professor of languages and literature by default. Raised in Minnesota and the Dakotas in a family of railroad employees, he had hoped to become an artist. He drew cartoons in high school, and upon graduation was accepted as a student at the Chicago Institute of Art. Family circumstances forced him out of school and he had to help support four siblings. By the time he could get back to

school, the Depression was in full gear making the pursuit of an artistic career rather impractical. Until he was able to redirect his life, he pumped gas at a local garage, and when Prohibition was repealed, he worked as a bartender in a saloon aptly named the Walhalla. And he continued to work while he attended the University of Minnesota.

I visited Larry in the last few months of his life. Next to his bed or on his wheelchair there were always books of poetry in French, Italian, Swedish, German, and Russian. Languages and

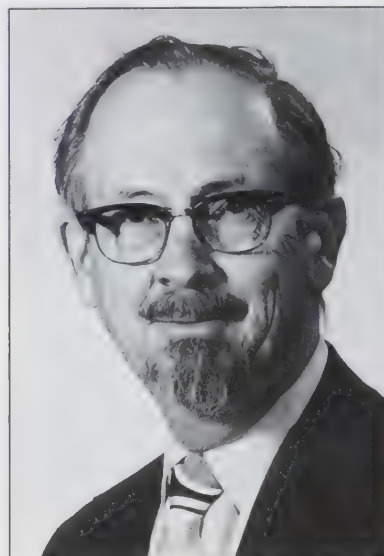
world literature, besides steam-driven locomotives, were a life-long passion, and, as he preferred to read in the original, he had taught himself some of these languages. When he and I had worked together in the Peace Corps Program at Oberlin, Larry attended the classes where African languages were taught. He had a vision of a global world long before that idea had become part of the common vocabulary. He traveled widely and led many Oberlin programs abroad.

I remember walking with Larry in February in the sub-zero temperature of Quebec, drinking planter's punch with him in the Virgin Islands, being in his house the day the Challenger blew up. We laughed together, we argued loudly, we commiserated about the human condition.

Larry, I miss that uncompromising stiff back of yours.

MATHIS SZYKOWSKI is Emeritus Professor of French at Oberlin College. This Memorial Minute was adopted by the General Faculty April 15, 1997.

Mr. Wilson is survived by his wife of 64 years, Myrtle Lindall Wilson, and two sons.



Recent Books

The Coming Race War in America

BY CARL T. ROWAN '47

Little, Brown and Company, 1996

"Will scare the bejesus out of most of us," says *USA Today*. In this wake-up call to those who believe racism is no longer a problem in America, Rowan maintains that "the early salvos have been fired in a race war that will worsen." The book examines the current state of race relations in America and the increasing presence of hatred in national politics. Though pessimistic about society's readiness to face the immense challenges necessary to avert a race war, Rowan maintains that war is not inevitable, and offers ways to prevent it. Rowan is a columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and is the author of several books on race in America.

Religion, Interpretation, and Diversity of Belief

BY TERRY F. GODLOVE JR. '77

Mercer University Press, 1997

Tracing the history of a philosophical construct called "the framework model" from Kant to Durkheim, Godlove argues for its replacement. He maintains that religions are not all-encompassing. They are constrained and constructed by the formal rules that make human experience possible and by the assumptions that, as language users, we all share. Given these common foundations, religious differences are relatively limited and largely theoretical, asserts the author. The book sketches a picture of linguistic interpretation in which our differences, religious or otherwise, occur in the context of a strong shared background. Godlove is associate professor of philosophy and religion at Hofstra University.

Republic of the Dispossessed: The Exceptional Old-European Consensus in America

BY ROWLAND BERTHOFF '42

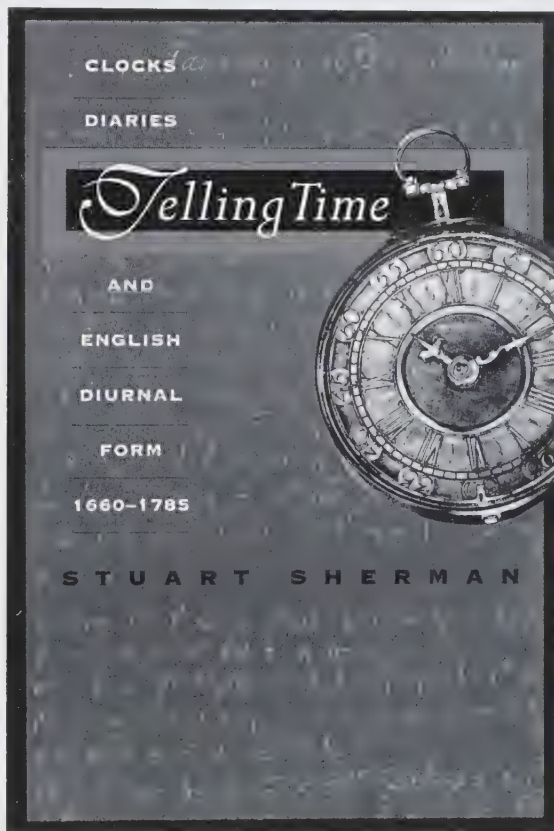
University of Missouri Press, 1997

In this collection of essays, Berthoff argues that, contrary to recent mainstream historical interpretation, Americans have long shared a distinctive consensus on social values. This largely middle-class consensus is rooted in the values of the "dispossessed" Europeans who began arriving here in the 17th century, and is based upon a desire to balance personal liberty and communal equality. Berthoff, a Washington University professor emeritus of history, contends that the current emphasis on traditional values stems from America's renewed fear of dispossession. He is the author of several previous works, including *An Unsettled People: Social Order and Disorder in American History*.

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Please send news of your recently published book or CD, along with a review copy, if possible, to "Issued," Oberlin Alumni Magazine, Bosworth 101, 50 West Lorain Street, Oberlin, OH 44074-1089. We'll present your review copy to the Oberlin College Library as a gift from you once your news has been published.

Please note: The magazine can announce only those books and CDs which are available for sale through bookstores or music outlets. If your book or CD has been privately published and you would like classmates to know about it, consider calling (216) 775-8182 to inquire about running an announcement in the classified advertising section of the Oberlin Alumni Magazine.



Telling Time: Clocks, Diaries, and English Diurnal Form 1660-1785

BY STUART SHERMAN '74

University of Chicago Press, 1996

Considering a body of literary prose that has rarely received disciplined critical attention, Sherman positions a varied group of works in relation to their ideas about time. Tracing a long-running, but often ignored, "cultural encounter" between early modern chronometry and important prose genres of the 18th century, he analyzes changes in the content and form of writings that run side-by-side with developments in clock and watch technology from crude machines to exacting chronometers. Sherman is associate professor of English at Washington University.

The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture

BY DANIEL HARRIS '80

Hyperion, 1997

"Some of the clearest analysis of gay culture I have ever seen in print," says Gary, Indiana, author of *Gone Tomorrow*. Harris investigates the artifacts, rituals, and institutions of gay culture, and argues that its assimilation into mainstream society is undermining gay men's sense of themselves as a distinct minority. *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture* also raises questions about the fate of racial and cultural diversity in society at large. A Brooklyn-based essayist, Harris writes regularly for *Harper's* and *Salmagundi*. This is his first book.

Pioneering Spirits: The Lives and Times of Remarkable Women Artists in Western History

BY ABBY REMER '82

Davis Publications, 1996

Remer explains women's vast and fascinating artistic heritage from prehistory to the present. Tracing a trail blazed by ancient Greek and Roman female painters, illuminators of sacred medieval manuscripts, and Renaissance heroines, *Pioneering Spirits* reveals the nearly overwhelming obstacles women have had to overcome in order to contribute to Western art. Remer is founder and president of A.R. Arts and Cultural Programs, Inc., in New York City.

The Buddhist Religion: A Historical Introduction

BY RICHARD H. ROBINSON,

WILLARD JOHNSON '61, SANDRA WAWRYTKO, THANISSARO BHIKKHU (GEOFFREY DEGRAFF) '71

Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1997

Two Oberlin graduates have helped produce a completely revised fourth edition of the classic textbook on the Buddhist religion. Designed for the general-interest reader as well as for classroom use, the book provides a historical portrait of Buddhism's doctrine and effects upon society, along with descriptions of modern religious life in major Buddhist cultures. Johnson is professor of religion at San Diego State University, and Bhikkhu is the abbot of the Meta Forest Monastery.

City Teachers: Teaching and School Reform in Historical Perspective

BY KATE ROUSMANIERE '80

Teachers College Press, 1997

Funded in part by a grant from the Oberlin College Alumni Fellowship, *City Teachers* relates the experience of New York City teachers as they resisted, undermined, and adapted the school-

reform policies of the 1920s. Rousmaniere raises questions about the actual effects of the reforms on teaching, curriculum, and school administration. Supplemented by extensive teacher interviews, the book examines the legacy of teachers' work culture and the effect of working conditions on teaching practices and reform policies. Rousmaniere is assistant professor in the Department of Education Leadership at Miami University in Ohio and was co-editor of *Discipline, Moral Regulation, and Schooling: A Social History*.

Language in Cognitive Development: The Emergence of the Mediated Mind

By KATHERINE NELSON '52
Cambridge University Press, 1996

"Sets forth a significant advance in our understanding of how children's thought develops," says Sheldon White of Harvard University, calling this "a book that now defines the cutting edge of our scientific understanding of cognitive development." Nelson presents a theory of cognitive development in infancy and early childhood that emphasizes the role of language while acknowledging the influence of both individuality and social convention. She is distinguished professor of psychology at the Graduate School and University Center of the City of New York.

Restoring Balance to a Mother's Busy Life

By BETH WILSON SAAVEDRA '84
Contemporary Books, Inc., 1996

How can mothers meet their own changing needs while dealing with the day-to-day challenges of childrearing? Saavedra provides relaxation methods and meditations, and covers topics such as quiet moments with the baby, overcoming hurdles to sex, reclaiming one's body, and finding sources of support. The author, now known as Beth Shannon Wilson, has published two other books on motherhood, *Meditations for New Mothers* and *Meditations for Mothers of Young Children*, which have been translated into 10 languages and sold over 400,000 copies.

Criminal Dangerousness and the Risk of Violence

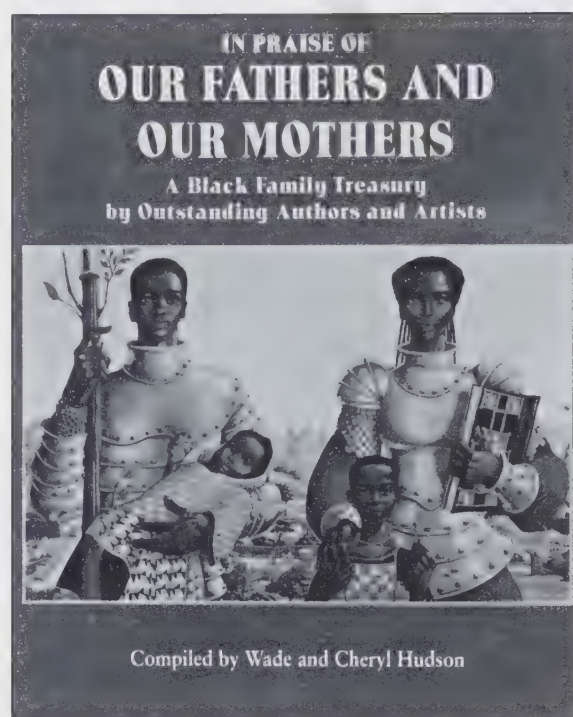
By ALFRED B. HEILBRUN JR. '49
University Press of America, 1996

The author's new theoretical model of criminal dangerousness, which focuses on predicting violence, suggests that criminal violence evolves from a combination of deviant social values and cognitive deficits. Heilbrun supports his theory with a program of research and empirical-test data that pays particular attention to the relevance of race, gender, and mental disorder as contributors to criminal violence. Heilbrun is

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emeritus professor of psychology at Emory University and a consultant to the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles.



In Praise of Our Fathers and Our Mothers: A Black Family Treasury by Outstanding Authors and Artists

COMPILED BY WADE HUDSON
AND CHERYL WILLIS HUDSON '70
Just Us Books, 1997

In this richly illustrated collection, 49 black authors and visual artists share the influence their fathers, mothers, and ancestors have had on their lives. The contributions include poetry, essays, interviews, paintings, and vintage and contemporary photographs. Hudson and her husband founded *Just Us Books* in 1988, and she has since published numerous children's books, including *Bright Eyes*, *Brown Skin* and *Hold Christmas in Your Heart*.

Toward a Safer Workplace: Reform and Deregulation of Worker's Compensation

By JAMES CHELIUS AND
EDWARD MOSCOVITCH '62
Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research, 1996
The Massachusetts workers' compensation

system underwent major reforms in 1991; *Toward a Safer Workplace* analyzes their effects and reviews the current system. The reforms were largely successful, say the authors, but some areas still need improvement, such as incentives for safety investments, the benefit structure, and insurance rates. Moscovitch is an independent economist and consultant in Cape Ann, Massachusetts. He has published two other books with the Pioneer Institute.

Dynamic Psychotherapy with the Borderline Patient

By WILLIAM GOLDSTEIN '64
Jason Aronson Publishers, 1996

A guide for therapists treating severe personality disorders, *Dynamic Psychotherapy* presents a history of the concept of borderline patients and an overview of contemporary disputes regarding their classification, diagnosis, and treatment. Goldstein uses both theoretical discussion and clinical case studies to illustrate various methods of treating borderline patients. The author of *Introduction to the Borderline Conditions*, Goldstein is professor of clinical psychiatry at Georgetown University School of Medicine and at the George Washington University Medical Center.

Dance Me Along the Path

By NANCY BAILEY MILLER '67,
ILLUSTRATED BY DON DOYLE
Strathmoor Books, 1997

Many of the settings and subjects in Miller's first collection of poetry are from New England and from Phillips Academy, where she works. Her work has appeared in numerous anthologies, such as *Our Mothers Ourselves*, *A Place of Springs*, and *While Morning Stars Sang*. A teacher of English, Latin, and Suzuki violin, Miller has been a judge of the Lawrence Eagle Poetry contest and is founder of the Arts Workshop for Children. She lives near Boston with her husband and three children.

Interactive Media Essentials for Success

By BRIAN BLUM '83
Ziff Davis Press, 1996

A step-by-step guide through the interactive design, development, and management process. *Interactive Media Essentials* includes anecdotal "war stories" about the design process, basic design tips, and a complete set of interactive script, flowchart, and project management templates. Blum lives in Israel, where he runs Blum Interactive Media. This is his first book.

Rethinking Writing

By JOANNE M. PODIS AND LEONARD A. PODIS
Allyn and Bacon, 1996

Oberlin professor of expository writing and English Leonard Podis, and his wife, Joanne,

have collaborated to produce this guide to student writing. *Rethinking Writing* reviews the link between personal and academic writing, outlines the composing process, and provides assistance with traditional college writing assignments. It also addresses the multicultural nature of society and the computer revolution's effect on the writing process. The numerous writing samples are the work of Oberlin students. Podis is director of Oberlin's expository writing program.

**Driven by Hope: Men and Meaning
and
Men at Work:
Life Beyond the Office**

By JAMES E. DITTES '49

Westminster John Knox Press, 1996

Published simultaneously and meant to complement one another, these books invite men to "embrace and celebrate their spiritual and decidedly masculine way" in the world. *Driven by Hope* explores alternatives to the traditional male role. *Men at Work* teaches the reader to look beyond the "one-sided love affair" with work and suggests ways to recognize unhealthy dependencies on work. Both books provide spiritual support for men who are reevaluating life's possibilities. Dittes is professor of pastoral theology and psychology at Yale Divinity School.

Still Can't Keep a Straight Face

By ELLEN ORLEANS '83

Laugh Lines Press, 1996

Author of several lesbian humor books, Lambda Award-winner Ellen Orleans's work has appeared in such diverse publications as *Glib*, *Deneuve*, *The Washington Post*, and *Funny Times*. Issues she addresses in this collection include gay DNA, sodomy laws, Colorado's infamous Amendment 2, a gay Passover Seder, lesbian literature, her traumatic introduction to public speaking—and, of course, shedding pussycats. Director of the computer lab and writing-proficiency program at the Naropa Institute, Orleans combines tongue-in-cheek-humor with political and social savvy and comes away with an insightful and entertaining view of modern gay life.

Rhythm Reading

By DANIEL KAZEZ '80

W.W. Norton, 1997

The second edition of one of the most widely used rhythm textbooks in the United States, *Rhythm Reading* begins with the simplest cells and proceeds to lessons useful for even the most advanced student. Identifying a short rhythm pattern that appears frequently in Western music, this textbook offers concise explanations of musical terms, concepts, and performance indications. Kazez is associate professor of music at Wittenburg University.



Recent Recordings

Mandara Blossoms

By THE STANLEY COWELL QUINTET

SteepleChase, 1996

Jazz piano virtuoso Stanley Cowell '60 opens his new album with a unique version of the *Aladdin* hit "A Whole New World." *The Washington Post* says *Mandara Blossoms* radiates "a sincerity and soulfulness," providing listeners with "plenty to ponder and enjoy." Cowell's work resonates throughout the recording, as six of the eight tracks are his own compositions.



The Pulse of an Irishman

PRODUCED BY STEVEN STULL '83

CRS Barn Studio, 1997

A collection of traditional Irish and Scottish songs arranged by Beethoven, featuring baritone Steve Stull '83 and cellist Laura Kramer '84. All songs are performed in English, as Beethoven intended, and are accompanied by piano, violin, and cello.

Severe Comfort

By WARM WIRES

Sugar Fix Recordings, 1996

Brad Pedinoff '88 describes his new band's musical style as "Cuddle-Core influenced by elves and bulldozers. . . . It's rock and roll, anyway." Pedinoff wrote the album's 15 songs with a variety of instrumentation, including violin, cello, clarinet, and Indian tabla and sarangi. The San

Francisco-based group is currently touring to promote the recording, which was recently released in Europe on a Dutch label.

Martian Heartache

By TOM VARNER '79

Soul Note, 1997

New York City musician Varner plays jazz French horn in this collection of his own compositions. *Martian Heartache* is his seventh jazz recording.

Other Recent Titles

The Virgin Blue

By TRACY CHEVALIER '84

Penguin Books, UK, 1997

Chevalier confronts questions of family, superstition, and love in her first novel, which is presently available only in the United Kingdom. [See Class of 1984 notes.]

**Indian Wells Valley and Northern
Mohave Desert Handbook**

EDITED BY ELSA WALTHER PENDLETON '58

Sea Gull Press, 1996

The sixth edition of this handbook. Surveys California's Indian Wells Valley from pre-history to the present, and includes chapters on sight-seeing and natural history.

**World Between:
Historical Perspectives
on Gender and Class**

By LENORE DAVIDOFF '53

Routledge Press, 1995

Explores topics such as the positions of servants and wives in Victorian England, the changing structure of housework, and conceptions of public and private. A research professor at the University of Essex, Davidoff specializes in the historical reexamination of gender.

**French Organ Music from the
Revolution to Franck and Widor**

EDITED BY LAWRENCE ARCHBOLD

AND WILLIAM J. PETERSON '70

University of Rochester Press, 1995

The pieces in this collection "collate and reference the already-rich bibliography on French Romanticism, probe and analyze works and performance practice, and sketch lifelike images of the personalities who made the era," says *The American Organist*.

Orchestral Music

By DAVID DANIELS '55

Scarecrow Press, 1996

The third edition of this standard reference guide for libraries and orchestras.

Keeping in touch is just a keystroke away

*Are you searching for long-lost Oberlin friends?
Itching for the lowdown on the latest campus controversy?
Need to update your records?
Longing for some Oberlin-style conversation?*

Keeping in touch with the campus

Oberlin College Alumni Association

alumoffc@ais.alumdev.oberlin.edu

Inquire about long-lost friends; tell the College about your changed address, telephone number, spouse, or partner; or ask about on- and off-campus Oberlin events.

<http://www.oberlin.edu/~alumassc/>

Everything you've always wanted to know about the Alumni Association—a history of the association, calendars of regional and on-campus alumni events, ways to contact association staffers, officers, volunteers, and more.

Oberlin Alumni Magazine

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Tell the editors what you want to see more of in the *OAM*, what you like, and what you don't like. Send class notes, letters to the editor, and ideas for future stories.

http://www.oberlin.edu/~alummag/alum_mag.html

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Keeping in touch with each other

oc-alum

An all-purpose e-mail discussion group for Oberlin College folks. Maintained by Andy Rowan '83, oc-alum has no official connection to the College; it's just a group of people who have Oberlin in common—about 200 at the most recent count.

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to:

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Or subscribe to the digest version by sending e-mail to:

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In the subject line type the word "subscribe"

In the body of your message type your name and class year.

oc-books

Michael Bastedo '94 hosts this book-discussion group with software help from Andy Rowan.

To subscribe send e-mail to Andy at: **oc-books request@ocean.rutgers.edu**

Format your subject line and the body of your message as you would for oc-alum subscriptions.

Oberlin College Alumni E-mail Directory

A listing of the names, class years, and e-mail addresses of more than 1200 (at last count) Oberlin alumni. Search the directory for people you'd like to contact, or add yourself so others will know how to reach you.

Please note:

You are forbidden to use the directory for commercial purposes, and we do not guarantee the accuracy of the information.

If you want to be included, send an e-mail message to:

alumoffc@ais.alumdev.oberlin.edu

In the subject line type "add to edirectory"

In the body of the message type: your name, class year, and e-mail address. To update an existing entry, follow the same procedures, but in the subject line type "update entry."

There are three ways to access the directory:

1. Telnet to the College's ALPHA computer: **alpha.cc.oberlin.edu**
Enter "aluminfo" at the username prompt, and follow the directions on your screen.
2. Send an e-mail message to:
oc-alum-d-request@ocean.rutgers.edu
In the subject line type "archive"
In the body of the message type "send oberlin.directory."
You'll receive the directory in your e-mailbox.
3. Go to the URL at **<http://deathstar.rutgers.edu/people/rowan/oc/>**
Follow the directions for obtaining a username and password. Peruse the directory in alphabetical or class-year order.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 3)

story "Tis Not the Dying. . ." [Fall-Winter 1996 OAM].

Howie Frank and I grew up together as first cousins. We lived one house apart in Scarsdale, and my brother John and I always considered Howie more of a brother than anything else. We were all a part of the neighborhood gang and went to school together; Howie and I graduated from Bronxville High together. Then we went off to war together—Howie to the Navy, John and I to the Army.

We, along with Howie's sister, Anne Frank Oser, of Hillsborough, California, were deeply touched by Jim Sunshine's piece because it caught Howie the way we remember him. It also brought back memories of Howie's friends at Oberlin, his roommates at The Morgue, his football days, and above all else his love of Oberlin.

We were especially touched by the letter from Ted Doege '50, one of the first recipients of the scholarship which the Frank and Goldsmith families established in Howie's memory. Thank you, Ted, for your letter.

FRANK M. GOLDSMITH
White Plains, New York

McGill Remembered

The announcement of Barry McGill's death closes an important chapter for me ["Losses in the Oberlin Family," Spring 1997 OAM]. Professor McGill, along with Professor Robert Neil, defined my Oberlin years.

I was not an honor student in history or a budding academic, but I suspect I represented the majority of students who sought out these two historians. My father graduated as an Oberlin history major in 1935 into a very uncertain world. Scarred by the Depression, he insisted I major in a subject that held some "market value," and so I declared economics as my major. But I graduated with the minimum 24 hours in that subject and 48 hours in history, almost all European.

When the catalog for the next year's courses was released, I flipped immediately to the history department, building my schedule around the courses offered by professors McGill and Neil. It didn't matter that I was unsure about my interest in Nineteenth Century English Politics or Germany: 1648-1812. I wanted the treat of those two teachers.



McGill's dry humor and understated delivery contrasted with Neil's, who blistered with conclusions and data before pausing to pour steaming coffee from his thermos. He would then announce a brief "time out" so we could "cool our ball-points" from note-taking. Professor McGill would never deign to pause.

The loss of Professor McGill is, in some ways, the passing of my years at Oberlin. He and Professor Neil gave me a gift of life-long value—they taught me how to learn.

JIM REITER '67
Lafayette, California

I appreciate Professor Geoffrey Blodgett's brilliant and heart-felt memorial to Professor Barry McGill, whose introductory European history course I took in 1962. The moment he started lecturing, we became aware that we were not in high school anymore; this was different and much more intense. There was so much to cover and it was all so important that McGill couldn't stop lecturing even when he went to open or close a window. He was stunning, inspiring, and a little scary. He was always "on" and gave no less than his very best.

Thirty-five years have obliterated almost all details of that course. What haven't dimmed, however, are the strong beliefs acquired in his classroom, in the importance of sharing knowledge of our collective past and that war is the great and enduring failure of the human race.

DAVID BLODGETT '66
Laguna Beach, California

I was lucky enough to experience Professor McGill's classes freshman year, along with two of my roommates, George Kelly and Stephen Cresswell. From the first class onward, I realized how different he was from any other teacher I had ever met. His lectures started and stopped precisely with each class bell, but in between they were filled with more knowledge about history than most books on the subject. Professor McGill demanded much of his students, but clearly demanded no less of himself.

As the school year progressed, I had the good fortune to come to know him personally. Whether we were discussing material for a paper on Disraeli's novels, or had a chance encounter near Tappan

Square, I came to realize how much he cared about his students, and how willing he was to help them. At one of his parties for students at his home, I accidentally kicked loose the bottom piece of a drain pipe. As my friends and I were putting it back in place, Professor McGill came running over to the scene of the crime, exclaiming "Rourke, Rourke, you rhinoceros!" My friends have never let me forget this incident. That episode illustrates the singular force of his personality as well as his capacity for forgiveness.

Students of my generation were given a great deal. I believe that Professor McGill

Thinking about Running for Political Office ?

The Oberlin Initiative in Electoral Politics offers grants to alumni at all stages of their careers who are interested in pursuing programs of study as preparation for entering electoral politics.

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Professor of Politics Harlan Wilson
Rice Hall 234 • 10 N. Professor St.
Oberlin, OH 44074-1095

*Applications will be
accepted on an ongoing basis*

remains a strong part of our memories because, at a highly permissive point in our country's history, he wasn't afraid to use the classroom to demand the best from us. Now that this very special teacher and friend is gone, all of us who were lucky enough to know him should honor him by demanding even more of ourselves.

STEPHEN R. ROURKE '78
Baltimore, Maryland

Fountain Remembered

A number of years ago I had the pleasure of presenting Mr. Robert Fountain to the audiences attending concerts by the Oberlin Choir in Dayton, Ohio, on two occasions. On a couple of occasions on which I was in Oberlin to preside at meetings of the Alumni Board, he in turn allowed me to audit rehearsals of the choir.

On one visit to Oberlin for a council meeting I was waiting to buy a ticket at the movie theater for a James Bond movie. Mr. Fountain, passing by the theater, saw me standing there, stopped, and asked, "Slumming?" We laughed together, talked for a bit, and he walked on. I got my ticket and entered the theater.

After the feature I remained seated until the exiting crowd thinned out. The lights were up for the people coming in for the second show, and I saw Mr. Fountain come in and take a seat in the back row of the front section. As I got up to leave, the wide

aisle giving access to the fire exit on side of the auditorium enabled me to come up behind Mr. Fountain, lean over his shoulder, and whisper in his ear, "Slumming?" His head slumped down. His shoulders shook with laughter. I had accomplished something few ever managed: I had topped Mr. Fountain.

WILLIAM L. MEZGER '38
Dayton, Ohio

More Complicated Than That

My response to Bernard D. Sherman's article on the alleged vindication of John Service was not to defend McCarthy or McCarthyism, as some may have inferred from Mr. Sherman's response ["Letters," Summer 1996 *OAM*]. C. Martin Wilbur and Robert S. Thompson continued the muddle not only by mischaracterizing my remarks, but by getting other facts wrong ["Letters," Fall-Winter 1996 *OAM*].

I did not claim Service was guilty of being a secret Communist or spy, as Thompson implies. I did, however, summarize the evidence presented by Harvey Klehr and Ronald Radosh in their book, *The Amerasia Spy Case: Prelude to McCarthyism*. By their account, Service was guilty of giving classified information, regarded officially as pertinent to the war effort, to individuals who were not authorized to review such. The information did not consist merely of carbon

copies of his own reports, as Wilbur claims. It included his notes of documents prepared by others in the State Department, as well as verbal information. A hidden microphone recorded Service in 1945 telling the editor of *Amerasia*, who was then an aspiring Soviet agent, "What I said about military plans is of course very secret."

In his letter Professor Wilbur presents as evidence of Service's innocence the fact that he willingly testified before the grand jury and was not indicted. But this must be interpreted in light of previously unavailable FBI records, to which Klehr and Radosh had access. An FBI wiretap, for instance, recorded Washington insider Tommy Corcoran, the key intermediary between the Attorney General and Service, telling Service before he testified that his case was "double riveted from top to bottom."

Wilbur implies that Service's escape from indictment and return to government service refutes any claim of coverup by Attorney General Thomas Clark. Yet Service returned to a position in the very administration that fixed the case. What did one expect the consequence to be? Only later, when the administration changed and concern about the case resurfaced, did Service run into difficulties.

Service became foolishly and probably only naively caught up in an attempted Soviet espionage operation during wartime. He is, I believe, neither a martyred saint deserving medals and accolades, as Bernard Sherman and Professor Wilbur would have it, nor a conspiratorial spy who should have been imprisoned, as McCarthy apparently wished. I believe he was simply a gullible, well-intentioned innocent, lucky to escape conviction for his technical misdeeds. He has suffered since, indeed more than he probably deserves, for foolishness and hubris.

ERNEST B. HOOK '56
U.C. Berkeley School of Public Health

THINKING ABOUT CONTINUING YOUR STUDIES?

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For details, call or write:

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155 N. Professor St., Oberlin, Ohio 44074-1089
Phone: (216) 775-8140 Fax: (216) 775-8089.

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September 26-28
October 3-5

Oberlin
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July 30-August 1 Ontario's Stratford Festival, escorted
by Associate Professor of Theater
Jane Armitage.
September 9-10 Niagara-on-the-Lake's Shaw Festival,
escorted by Emeritus Professor of
English Dewey Ganzel.

**This schedule does not include all upcoming events,
and dates may be subject to change.**

For further information contact:

Oberlin College Alumni Association
Bosworth 105, 50 W. Lorain St. • Oberlin, OH 44074-1089
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